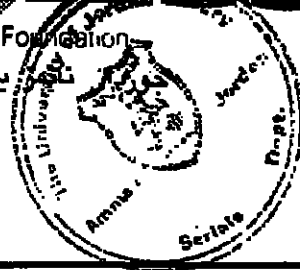


## Kuwait denies Iranian spy report

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Monday rejected as unfounded Iranian allegations that three Kuwaiti nationals had been arrested and confessed to spying for Iraq. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osumi said that there even had been no report of Kuwaiti nationals missing from Kuwait waters. Iran's state-run Tehran Radio reported that Iranian forces have recently arrested three Kuwaiti "spies" in the Khor Abdullah waterway between Kuwait's Bubiyan Island and the Iranian-occupied Fao peninsula of Iraq. Tehran Radio said late Sunday that the men had been engaged in collecting military information on Iranian forces stationed in the Fao area. One of the three men was quoted as claiming he was a fisherman, said the radio. Mr. Al Osumi told the Kuwait News Agency: "Kuwait has no information whatsoever about the arrest of the three Kuwaitis."

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
تأسست المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية بالأمم المتحدة



## King Hussein to meet Thatcher

LONDON (R) — King Hussein is expected to have talks next week with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on prospects for an international conference on Middle East peace, a Foreign Office official said Monday. The meeting will come during a planned private visit by the King to Britain. "The first item is the international conference," the official said about an agenda for the British leader's meeting with the King. Britain considered such a conference the most practical way to hold negotiations between the parties involved in the Middle East conflict, he said. Mrs. Thatcher's planned meeting with the King will precede her scheduled July 17 visit to Washington, where she will meet President Reagan.

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## Israeli soldier wounded in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli soldier was wounded in South Lebanon on Monday when a roadside bomb exploded near an Israeli patrol, sources said. They said the bomb blew up as Israeli troops in tanks and trucks passed near Kantara, on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" 24 kilometres east of Tyre.

## W. Germany charges Hamadei with murder

WIESBADEN (R) — West Germany on Monday filed new charges, including murder and air piracy, against suspected Lebanese Mohammad Ali Hamadei, a local justice official said Monday. Volker Bouvier, state secretary at the Justice Ministry in the West German state of Hesse, said the charges were formally added on evidence provided by the U.S. authorities to an earlier charge of illegal possession of explosives.

## Mahdi arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi arrived Monday for talks with Kuwaiti leaders on the Iran-Iraq war and the role Sudan can play in ending the hostilities, government sources said. The government sources gave no details of Sudan's possible mediation.

## Lebanon seeks WFP help

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has asked the World Food Programme (WFP) to help feed 1.25 million needy Lebanese, acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss said Monday. "This is a rough estimate of those who might need help. There is a lot of poverty in Lebanon," he told Reuters. Mr. Hoss said the government had had no reply yet to the request made on June 23 to Hicham Al Hage, Mediterranean area director for the Rome-based WFP. Mr. Hage told Reuters in Amman last week that the six-month relief programme would cost \$80-\$90 million.

## PLO claims attack

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said it carried out a bomb attack at a bus station for Israeli soldiers in Haifa. The Palestinian news agency Wafa said Sunday night guerrillas carried out the attack on Sunday, but it was not known if there were any casualties because Israeli forces rapidly cordoned off the area. The bomb damaged a bus at the station on the northern outskirts of Haifa, Wafa added.

## Saboteurs set off blast at NATO base

LAHR, West Germany (R) — Saboteurs broke into a Canadian NATO base on Monday, exploded a bomb by remote-control and caused an estimated million dollars worth of damage, a military spokesman said. Two armoured ammunition carriers were gutted as the explosion ripped through the base's fuel storage compound, setting fire to 10 tonnes of petrol and oil. The spokesman told Reuters he believed it was the first attack directed at Canadian forces in West Germany.

## INSIDE

- Iraqi leader reiterates five-point peace plan, page 2
- ACDIMA to set up \$15m subsidiary in Amman, page 3
- Iranian navy could wage guerrilla war, page 4
- Problems of the greying Netherlands, page 5
- Mansell breaks out of slump, page 6
- Nakasone presents budget to boost local spending, page 7
- S.Korea fires 177 detainees, page 8

# Jordan to lodge urgent protest at U.N. over Israel's water scheme

Kingdom reserves right to seek Security Council meeting on Israeli move to pump Bethlehem water

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is lodging an urgent complaint with the U.N. General Secretariat over Israel's plans to pump water from the occupied West Bank, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday.

The agency said the government had instructed Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N. to submit an urgent written protest to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar pointing out that the Israeli move was aimed at seizing water resources in the occupied territories and violated international conventions.

Jordan was seeking to circulate its protest as a document in the General Assembly and the Security Council, Petra added.

The Israeli defence ministry has approved the water scheme,

under which 18 million cubic metres of water will be pumped every year from an area near the West Bank town of Bethlehem. The water will be used mostly by Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, according to reports in the Israeli press.

Palestinian mayors in the West Bank have vowed to fight the plan which will eventually dry up water resources in towns and villages surrounding Bethlehem. Egypt has lodged a formal protest against the plan with the Israeli government pointing out that the plan violated international conventions related to occupied territories.

The Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij has asked the United States to use its influence with Israel to stop the scheme. Officials at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem were earlier reported studying the project quoted as saying that the issue of water rights had long been of high concern to the United States.

Following is the text of an official Jordanian statement issued Monday. The Jordanian government has asked its representative at the United Nations to submit an urgent note of protest to the U.N. secretary general to distribute it as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The document refers to

(Continued on page 2)

# Protesting Arabs clash with Israeli police in land dispute

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Arab Druze villagers shouting "revenge against the Jews" hurled rocks and sticks at Israeli police Monday for tearing down a tent camp they erected as part of a land dispute.

Israel Radio said 16 policemen and two nature reserve officials were wounded in the clash on Mount Meron in northern Israel. It said angry villagers also set fire to 12 police vehicles and rolled them off the 1,200-metre-high mountain.

The villagers from Beit Jann, 180 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem, put up the tents last month to press their claim to 12,000 dunams of land on Mount Meron. They demanded the land be returned to them for housing, farming and public works projects.

Last month the villagers re-

jected a government proposal which would have enabled them to cultivate some of the disputed land.

Samir Wahdad, head of the Beit Jann local council, blamed the government for Monday's clash.

"If (the government) pays no attention to a painful problem... then obviously the problem will escalate," Mr. Wahdad told Israel Radio. "We just want to live peacefully in our village on our private land."

Meanwhile, Israeli cabinet minister Yitzhak Mordechai vowed at the funeral of a Jewish boy killed by a petrol bomb that Israel would hold on to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tal Moses died on Sunday from severe burns received in the April 11 attack. He was buried in a Tel Aviv suburb beside his

mother Ofra who was also killed when the petrol bomb was thrown at their car.

"In the name of the people of Israel and in the opinion of the government of Israel, I announce here that we will hang to the whole of our homeland," Mordechai, of the right-wing Likud bloc, said.

Legislator Yuval Neeman of the opposition ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party called at the funeral for the death penalty for Palestinian activists.

Hawthorn Trade Minister Ariel Sharon said during a tour of West Bank settlements: "The mission is to make every effort to strengthen the Jewish grasp in the area."

Around 60,000 Jews have settled among 1.3 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

# Assad meets Walters

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad conferred on Monday with veteran U.S. troubleshooter Vernon Walters soon after the envoy slipped quietly into Damascus in a bid to patch up an eight-month rift in U.S.-Syrian relations, a senior Syrian official said.

Mr. Assad's presidential spokesman, Jibril Kourieh, said the talks focussed on "Middle East developments and issues related to the Middle East as well as relations between Syria and the United States."

Kourieh said the meeting was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. General Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is the first ranking American official to visit Syria since Washington scaled down diplomatic links with Damascus last November over allegations it was involved in "terrorism."

The White House said late last month that a U.S. envoy would go to Damascus after President Assad agreed to a request from President Ronald Reagan following secret contacts between the two leaders.

Gen. Walters, a former deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, arrived in Damascus following a visit to Moscow.

He was seeking support there for United Nations Security Council efforts to end the nearly seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

The United States has had no

# U.S. assigning warplanes on Gulf escort mission

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. navy fighters have begun flying escort missions over American warships and commercial shipping entering and leaving the Gulf. Defence Department officials said Monday.

They told Reuters the first cover was provided on Saturday as a precaution against Iranian attack when three U.S. warships, including the damaged frigate Stark, left the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

"It will be part of our precautionary operations to do this from time to time in the future," said an official, who declined to be identified.

Said another official: "It was not intended to be provocative. It was intended to demonstrate our ability to cover the strait with both fighter and surveillance aircraft."

U.S. officials fear Iran's Chinese-made anti-ship Silkworm missiles, stationed near the strait, might be used to attack U.S. and allied shipping.

The United States is placing half of Kuwait's tanker fleet under the American flag from the middle of this month to protect it as the Gulf war rages between Iran and Iraq.

Some U.S. officials have hinted at an American pre-emptive strike against the Silkworms if Iran makes them operational.

The Washington Post reported on Monday that the United States launched its navy warplanes over the weekend with the idea of knocking out the missiles if they went into action.

Pentagon officials said there was no indication Iran was preparing to launch the missiles when F-14 fighter jets from the carrier Constellation in the Arabian Sea, south of the Gulf, flew

protective cover on Saturday.

Meanwhile in Taif, Saudi Arabia, King Fahd met with a 12-member U.S. congressional team Monday to discuss the Gulf war and the fallout from opposition in Washington to a proposed sale of anti-tank missiles to Saudi Arabia.

The team, led by Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, is touring the Gulf region to discuss plans to allow the U.S.-Kuwaiti reflagging deal.

Arab diplomatic sources here said apart from the reflagging issue, the Saudi monarch raised the subject of Washington's failure to respond favourably to the kingdom's bid to buy 1,600 sophisticated Maverick missiles.

The delegation, which also include 15 congressional staff members, arrived in Taif Sunday from Iraq. They were due to confer with the Defence Minister Prince Sultan before leaving the kingdom later in the day en route to Washington.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy last week told Gulf Arab editors that the administration intended to resubmit the notification of sale of the Mavericks to Congress at a more opportune moment. The administration withdrew the sale in the face of congressional opposition in May.

Congress was then "ill-advised, ill-informed" about Saudi Arabia's response to a request for help when the USS Stark was attacked by an Iraqi warplane May 17, Mr. Murphy said. He was referring to the allegations that Saudi Arabian pilots failed to chase the Iraqi plane that attacked the Stark, killing 37 American navymen.



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Three newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan — (from left to right) Mr. Mohammad Fahd Al Issa of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Antonio Pittol Oses of Venezuela and Mr. Mohammad Abdo Shatafa of South Yemen — present their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein on Monday. Later on Monday, the newly-appointed Jordanian ambassador to Britain, Dr. Albert Botrous (photo on right), took the oath of office in the presence of His Majesty the King (Petra photos)

# Assailant kills businessman and flees with JD 100,000

By Ahmad Kreishan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An unidentified assailant shot dead a businessman in the Jabal Hussein area of Amman on Monday and made off with JD 100,000 in cash in Jordanian and foreign currencies in the first reported armed robbery of its kind in Jordan, according to police.

Mohieddeen Bashedi, 22, owner of a currency exchange firm, was attacked by the assailant and was shot in the ensuing struggle, according to eyewitness accounts quoted by police. The incident occurred at 8:15 a.m. when Mr. Bashedi was leaving his house for work carrying the money in a blue bag, according to the accounts.

Four of five nine-millimetre bullets fired by the assailant hit Mr. Bashedi and he died before reaching hospital. Police said eyewitnesses had given a description of the killer enabling the authorities to prepare an identikit sketch of the man, who was described as wearing jeans and a khaki shirt. The dark-haired man, whose age was estimated at 26 years, was bruised on his cheeks during the struggle with his victim, police said.

Police launched a manhunt for the assailant and released a copy of the identikit sketch to newspapers and appealed to the public for help in apprehending the criminal. The man is about 175 centimetres in height and was last seen fleeing towards the central bus and service station at Abdali, the authorities said. Police also announced an unspecified amount of reward for information leading to the capture of the man and said all information provided would be treated as confidential. They gave the following telephone numbers to be contacted: 621111, 639141 and 637777.



The robbed amount was in the

(Continued on page 3)

# Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return from U.K.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Monday after a private visit to Britain. During the visit, the Crown Prince held talks with senior British officials and also delivered a lecture at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

In the speech, the Crown Prince made a comprehensive review of the situation in the Middle East and the developments in efforts towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a peaceful negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Returning with the Crown

Prince and Princess Sarvath was His Royal Highness Ghazi Ibn Mohammad.

Receiving the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath at the airport upon their return were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Sharif Jamil Ibn Nasser, Royal Court Secretary-General Bassam Al Saket, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Amin and other senior officials as well as the British ambassador to Jordan.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is received upon his arrival from London on Monday by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem (second from left), Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (left) and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid (Petra photo)

# Gunboat rockets supertanker carrying Iranian oil

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A fresh Iranian attack on Gulf shipping was reported on Monday, with a Spanish supertanker the latest target, as Tehran warned the United States it would face humiliation if it reflagged Kuwaiti vessels.

The Spanish owners of the 313,647-tonne Santa Maria said in Bilbao that five shots were fired at the supertanker from an unidentified launch near the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf.

There were no casualties in the attack, a spokesman for Refineria de Petroleos del Norte S.A. said in Bilbao, and the supertanker which was carrying Iranian oil suffered only minor damage.

Lloyds shipping intelligence and Gulf shipping sources said earlier the attack was carried out by Iranians in five rubber dinghies believed armed with rocket-propelled grenades.

The owners said the shots had apparently been fired in warning after the vessel had been approached for details of the crew and cargo.

Two small holes inflicted in the attack had been patched up at Fujairah, UAE, and the Santa Maria was now bound for Bilbao, they said.

Iran has in the past attacked its own shipping, apparently in error.

The Santa Maria was the seventh merchant vessel hit in the Gulf since June 20 when Iraq resumed strikes against shipping for the first time since crippling the U.S. frigate Stark a month earlier, killing 37 crew. Baghdad said it was an accident.

Iran hit three ships associated

(Continued on page 3)

# France restates support of call for Mideast conference

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — France on Monday renewed support for Jordan's call for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East and urged the divided Israeli coalition government to accept the proposal aimed at beginning Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Francois Raimond told a press conference that his government believed such a conference was "the most realistic means" to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The foreign minister, who was received by His Majesty King Hussein shortly after his arrival on a 30-hour official visit on Sunday, described his talks as "extremely constructive" and

that he found "a great convergence in views (with Jordan) on the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon."

He said there was a "wide consensus" in Europe over the need for convening such a conference but that there remained several obstacles, including Israeli opposition to such talks and problems over the conference's membership and modalities.

Mr. Raimond, acknowledging divisions within the Jewish state, told reporters that "the idea of the conference has to be supported by the Israeli government."

When asked about his assessment of the prospects of a change in the Israeli government's opposition to the proposed talks,

Mr. Raimond, who met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last month, refrained from making any comment on the impasse within the Israeli cabinet.

"I do not wish to answer this question neither here in Amman nor in Paris," he said.

He told reporters that the Israeli coalition government's differences over the talks were not the only obstacle that needs to be solved, he explained that "it is a difficult and time-consuming task" to reach an agreement on the conference's membership and nature.

He said the proposed conference should be attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council

(Continued on page 3)

# Murphy and Polyakov begin talks in Geneva

GENEVA (Agencies) — Senior U.S. and Soviet officials opened a two-day confidential meeting on Monday reportedly focusing on developments in the 6½-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and prospects for a Middle East peace conference.

A U.S. spokesman, Chris Henze, said no statement or briefing was likely to follow the meeting which began in the Soviet mission to the United Nations. A Soviet source, who declined to be identified, described the meeting, the third of its kind since 1985, as an "exchange of opinions."

Heading the two delegations were Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Washington reports said Mr. Murphy planned to ask for Soviet help in steering through the U.N.

Security Council a resolution calling for a comprehensive ceasefire in the Gulf war, and to back a followup move that would impose sanctions in case of non-compliance.

The meeting comes at a time when the United States is preparing to put 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag and is bolstering its military presence in the Gulf. Iran has threatened it would attack such "reflagged" vessels, claiming Kuwait is backing Iraq in the war.

The Soviet Union last week called for the withdrawal from the Gulf of all naval units from countries that are not part of the region. The official news agency TASS said the Soviet Union, which borders Iran, has a legitimate reason for having warships in the region.

White House Chief of Staff Howard R. Baker said Sunday

(Continued on page 3)

# W. German president and Gromyko meet in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker said he had a "very trustful talk" with Soviet President Andrei A. Gromyko on Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Von Weizsaecker refused to say precisely what he talked about with Mr. Gromyko in a 2½-hour meeting. He did say, however, that the topics discussed included the international situation, German-Soviet relations, military security, economic cooperation and humanitarian questions.

"It was a very serious but trustful talk," Mr. Von Weizsaecker said. More discussions with Mr. Gromyko were planned for later Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Von Weizsaecker said.

The West German leader arrived earlier in the day for a six-day visit.



# U.S. navy warships move inside Iraq's exclusion zone

MANAMA (AP) — U.S. warships are cruising inside the exclusion zone declared by Iraq in the northern end of the Gulf as they prepare to start protecting 11 reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, Gulf-based shipping officials report.

The zone, which extends for 112 kilometres around Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, has in the past been considered taboo for U.S. vessels because of Iranian war.

U.S. navy officials declined to specify where the warships were patrolling. Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Honda said only that the warships, known as the Middle East Force, "operate in the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in international waters."

One of the U.S. vessels reported inside the exclusion zone, where Iraq's air force has concentrated its attacks on Iranian tankers, is the missile frigate Reid, sister ship of the USS Stark, the shipping officials said.

The Stark was attacked by an Iraqi warplane on May 17 and hit by missiles 64 kilometres south of the exclusion zone.

"We sighted the Reid inside the war zone and each of us was asking the sailor next to him 'am I seeing things?'" said a seaman who spotted the American warship as his tanker was carrying Iranian oil from Kharg to the Far East.

The seaman, who spoke on condition he was not named, added: "We saw the Reid through binoculars and then with the naked eye when it drew closer — an Oliver Hazard Perry-Class guided-missile frigate stabbing through the no-go zone."

Gulf-based Arab diplomats

also said the Reid and other U.S. warships had sailed into the exclusion zone in recent weeks.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. ships entered the danger zone with the knowledge of Baghdad under a purported understanding reached with the Americans.

A delegation of U.S. congressmen on Sunday met in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on the first day of a three-day visit.

The group, led by congressman Les Aspin, earlier held talks with officials in Bahrain and Kuwait. Some members of Congress oppose Mr. Reagan's plan to reflag the Kuwaiti tankers, saying this will embroil the United States in the Gulf war.

Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi on Sunday charged that the United States, officially neutral, was now backing Iraq in the Gulf war, which started in 1980.

The reflagging is designed to protect Kuwait's oil shipments against Iranian attack by putting the tankers under the American flag.

Iran claims Kuwait backs Iraq, and has threatened to continue to attack Kuwaiti vessels, even if they are registered with foreign nations. The Soviets have leased Kuwait three tankers.

The first of the U.S.-registered Kuwaiti ships is expected to re-

turn to the Gulf later this month.

The United States has had a steady presence in the Gulf since 1949, when Saudi Arabia struck oil with the help of American companies, to protect oil sources and shipments.

The original U.S. operational area covered the Gulf of Oman through the strategic Strait of Hormuz up to Ras Tanura, the major Saudi Arabian oil terminal halfway up the strategic waterway.

But as the force's commitments have broadened amid the so-called tanker war between Iraq and Iran, the U.S. warships have been gradually pushing further north above Ras Tanura.

Last January, warships nosed up to Kuwait, which borders Iraq in the northern Gulf, in an apparent friendly gesture to the emirate.

The U.S. Middle East Force was beefed up from three to five ships when the Gulf war broke out in September 1980, and was later enlarged to seven.

It has been reinforced with three more warships, including a missile cruiser, since the attack on the Stark.

Meanwhile, White House Chief of Staff Howard H. Baker says the U.S. government is moving ahead with plans to put American flags on 11 Kuwaiti tankers, but would reconsider plans to bolster its military in the Gulf if the Soviet Union also gets out of the region.

"If the Soviets will remove theirs, perhaps we'll take a fresh look," Mr. Baker said Sunday. "But we're certainly not going to cede control of that region to the

Soviet Union."

The Soviet Union on Friday called for withdrawal of all foreign warships from the Gulf and condemned the U.S. military buildup in the region. The statement from the Soviet News Agency TASS did not make clear whether the Soviet Union was offering to withdraw its warships.

The Soviets have leased Kuwait three Soviet-flagged tankers to afford them protection from Iranian attacks. TASS said the Soviet Union, which borders Iran, has a legitimate reason for having warships in the region.

Mr. Baker maintained that the United States also has a legitimate reason for a Gulf presence. "It is an unbroken commitment of the United States for many years, for decades, to see that Gulf does not become a Russian lake and that we do not let anyone interfere with our right of international transit through the Strait of Hormuz and in that region," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker said the reflagging of 11 Kuwaiti tankers is expected to be completed by mid-July. He gave strong support to efforts to bring about a ceasefire in the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war. The Soviets, in the TASS statement, also backed those efforts.

"If the two belligerent nations, Iran and Iraq, will agree to that ceasefire and return to traditional boundaries and the release of prisoners and the cessation of hostilities, then there will be every reason to expect that everyone can breathe easier and that you can reduce the naval presence there," Mr. Baker said.

## Qadhafi accuses Mahdi of reneging promises

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Col. Muammar Qadhafi says Sadeq Al Mahdi promised to merge Sudan with Libya if Col. Qadhafi would help him become Sudan's prime minister but reneged after taking power, a newspaper reported.

It said Col. Qadhafi told a rally of Sudanese workers in Benghazi that Mr. Mahdi also went back on a pledge to let Libya use Sudanese territory as a springboard for military operations in Chad.

The weekly newspaper Al Isba reported Col. Qadhafi's purported comments on Sunday, quoting people returning from Benghazi who said they were among 10,000 Sudanese workers to whom Col. Qadhafi spoke.

JANA, Libya's official news agency, has not mentioned such a speech but reported Sunday that "the Sudanese Arab masses in Benghazi" had met and committed themselves to Col. Qadhafi's ideas.

According to Al Isba, Col. Qadhafi said Mr. Mahdi made his promises as head of the National Front, an organisation opposed to former President Jaafar Numeiri, before a military coup overthrew Numeiri in April 1985.

Libya was the first country to recognise the government of the Transitional Military Council that ousted Numeiri. Libya also contributed to Mr. Mahdi's election campaign in 1986.

In his speech, Col. Qadhafi reportedly said Mr. Mahdi told him that in return for military and other help to the National Front, he would allow the unification of the countries after becoming prime minister.

In September 1986, six months after he became prime minister, Mr. Mahdi told an interviewer in Kuwait that Col. Qadhafi officially made such a proposal but was turned down. He said nothing about prior discussions on it.

According to the returning Sudanese, the Libyan leader said Mr. Mahdi's government "had failed to carry out pledges that were concluded by the National Front, for which the front received material and military aid."

Despite the pledges, he said, Mr. Mahdi "refused to grant Libya a few metres of land for sheltering the popular forces assisting the armed revolution in Chad."

Col. Qadhafi's apparent reference was to a dispute last spring in which Mr. Mahdi threatened to retaliate if Libya did not withdraw several thousand troops who had set up camps in western Sudan and were launching attacks into neighbouring Chad.

The dispute arose after Libyan troops in northern Chad, supporting forces opposed to the government of Hissene Habre, took heavy losses in government attacks.

## Iraq reiterates 5-point plan to end Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein said on Monday Iraq's war with Iran could be ended only on the basis of a five-point plan put forward by Baghdad last year.

"We should reject with vigour and awareness any decision not in keeping with the five principles we have declared as an irrevocable way to end the war," President Hussein said in a signed article published by all Iraqi newspapers.

The five principles announced by President Hussein in August 1986 are:

- A comprehensive ceasefire;
- A total, comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognised borders;
- A total and comprehensive exchange of war prisoners;
- The signing of a treaty of peace and non-aggression; and
- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs and respect for each other's choice of life.

President Hussein reiterated the five principles as efforts continued in the United Nations Security Council to agree a binding resolution to end the war, now almost seven years old.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was quoted on Monday as saying that he was optimistic about a possible end to the Gulf war.

In an interview with the Yugoslav weekly magazine Danas, excerpts of which were published by the official Tanjug news agency, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it seemed that prospects were also good for the signing of an agreement on nuclear disarmament.

"The contacts I have had with Soviet and U.S. leaders encourage me to believe that serious efforts are being made in the current nuclear disarmament talks and I have great hope in their successful outcome," he said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Middle East were problems of interest to all mankind, but there were encouraging developments which justified efforts for the peaceful solution of the conflicts in the region.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, due in Yugoslavia on July 10 for the World Student Games and the celebration of the birth of the five billionth world inhabitant, said he hoped the U.N. Security Council would soon adopt a resolution calling on Iraq and Iran to end hostilities.

He also said he had sent envoys to all the countries concerned to examine the chances of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East aimed at establishing a lasting and just peace in the region.

## Iranian diplomat hurt in Madrid blast

MADRID (R) — A bomb ripped through the car of an Iranian diplomat in a residential suburb of Madrid Monday, injuring him and a second man, a government spokeswoman said. Mohammad Raisi, second secretary at the Iranian embassy in Madrid, escaped with only light injuries, the spokeswoman said in a prepared statement.

A small bomb placed next to a front wheel of Raisi's diplomatic car went off when he started the engine early Monday morning, the statement added.

Raisi was immediately taken to Madrid's La Paz Hospital where he was being treated for his injuries.

Nobody has yet claimed responsibility for the attack and police were still trying to establish what kind of explosives had been used, the statement said.

The Iranian National News Agency (IRNA) described the explosion as a terrorist attack, saying the opposition Mujahadeen guerrilla organisation and Iraqi agents were prime suspects.

Also hurt in the explosion was a 20-year-old construction worker, Monico Eduardo Exposito, who was discharged from hospital shortly after being admitted.

## Jordan to lodge urgent U.N. protest

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's plans for seizing underground water supplies in the region of the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem.

The Israeli plan envisages drilling operations as deep as 1,000 metres underground in an area east of Bethlehem to draw water to the occupied western part of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements in the Jerusalem area. The Israeli company Mekorot has concluded a contract with the United States Moria Technology and Energy Company to implement the project which will enable the Israeli authorities to pump 18 million cubic metres of water annually.

In view of the serious dimensions of the project and its consequences, and acting from firm stands and principles with regard to the rights and interests of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories, the Jordanian government has instructed its permanent representative to the United Nations to present an urgent complaint to the U.N. secretary general, and it reserves the right to call the Security Council for a meeting in the future to study the negative economic, political and legal aspects of the Israeli plan.

Jordan's complaint is based on the following facts:

(1) The Israeli action is part of a major plan designed to seize all surface and underground fresh water supplies found in the Arab

land occupied since 1967. Official Israeli estimates indicate that 42 per cent of the total amount of fresh water pumped from the occupied Arab land are annually supplied to Israeli settlements in the territory for drinking and irrigation purposes.

(2) Israel has been in the process of drilling wells in areas sloping towards the Jordan Valley along the water distribution line in the West Bank with the purpose of depleting the water supplies in that side while keeping intact the underground water supplies in areas sloping towards the Mediterranean under Israeli control since 1948.

(3) The Israeli plan will result in damage to near-surface water supplies and artesian wells that feed the Bethlehem region. This in turn will be detrimental to the inhabitants of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour and neighbouring villages and also part of the Hebron area which depend on these water supplies for drinking and domestic purposes and irrigation and will no doubt cause severe harm to the economic life of the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank.

(4) The Israeli plan is considered as a flagrant violation of the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention on protection of civilian populations in times of war drawn up in 1949. This convention also

covers the occupation power's responsibility towards occupied territories.

(5) The Israeli plan also violates the objectives and aims contained in the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 15, 1972 and also the International Charter on Nature which was endorsed by the General Assembly on Oct. 10, 1982.

(6) The Israeli plan represents an outrageous defiance to the following U.N. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions:

— Security Council Resolution 465 of March 1, 1980, particularly Article Eight;

— General Assembly Resolution 38/144 issued on Dec. 19, 1983, on permanent sovereignty over national resources of the Palestinian lands and other occupied Arab lands and their water resources, and

— General Assembly Resolution 41/63 issued on Dec. 3, 1986.

(7) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its 14th session held in Nairobi on June 19, 1987, issued a resolution on the deteriorating environmental conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The resolution referred to Israel's seizure of water resources and the consequences of such actions on the environment.

The Jordanian authorities will continue to follow up the situation and confront the Israeli plans at international forums.

## China's boycott of Israel 'still firm'

PEKING (R) — Visiting Israeli Communist said Monday China was not ready to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, but that moves towards a Middle East peace conference could soften Peking's attitude.

China would regard any Israeli agreement to let the Palestine Liberation Organisation and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council take part in the conference as "a sign of the beginning of a change in the Israeli policy," Israeli Communist Party leader Meir Wilner said.

China recognises Israel's right

to exist but maintains a diplomatic boycott because of Israeli occupation of neighbouring territory, he told a news conference. Israel occupies land seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last week he believed China would establish diplomatic relations as the price of taking part in any Middle East peace conference.

A Chinese spokesman and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Peking have denied any change is imminent.

"Any change in relations ...

depends on the policy of Israel," Mr. Wilner said after meetings with Chinese leaders.

He said Israeli demands that China and the Soviet Union establish diplomatic relations before taking part in any peace conference were "not realistic." The Israeli Communist Party supports PLO demands for a separate Palestinian state.

The visit by party General Secretary Wilner and Central Committee Secretary George Toubi is the first by the Israeli party in 30 years. The Chinese Communist Party last week announced normalisation of relations with its Israeli counterpart.

## Anonymous caller denies death of Waite

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous telephone caller denied to Beirut's As Safir newspaper that British Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite had died, the daily reported Monday.

It said it had received a telephone call from an anonymous woman who only said "reports of the death of Terry Waite are not true."

The paper said the woman broke the connection before the duty editor who took the call was able to ask any questions.

Kuwait's Al Anba newspaper Sunday quoted what it said was a "well-trusted source" close to political parties in Lebanon as reporting that Mr. Waite died of natural causes in Lebanon's east Bekaa Valley last Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. Waite disappeared in Beirut in January while on a mission to seek the release of foreign kidnap hostages in Lebanon.

## Kollek to boycott Bastille Day celebrations

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Jewish Mayor Teddy Kollek will boycott Bastille Day celebrations in the city because the French consul has planned separate receptions in the Jewish and Arab sectors of the capital, a spokesman said Monday.

"The consul-general's act is against the spirit of the city... we have our political problems but... it's a united city and the Arabs and Jews are trying their best to

live together," said Rafi Davara, Kollek's spokesman.

French Consul-General Jean-Claude Cousseran did not respond to telephone queries. But a consulate secretary confirmed separate receptions would be held at the country's two consulates in Jewish West Jerusalem and Arab East Jerusalem.

Davara said in the past the United States also held separate Independence Day celebrations

at its two consulates, but dropped the practice at Kollek's persuasion.

Palestinian editor Ziad Abu Zayyad praised the French practice of separate parties.

"I bless the French government and consulate," Mr. Zayyad was quoted as saying in the daily Jerusalem Post. "The French are acting according to the realities, and the reality is that East Jerusalem is an occupied area."

## TV & RADIO

# JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

## PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:50 ..... Programme Review  
15:55 ..... Cartoons and children's programme

16:50 ..... Secret of the Rail Road  
17:20 ..... Different Strokes  
18:00 ..... Religious Programme  
18:30 ..... Soccer  
19:25 ..... Local programme  
19:50 ..... Programme Review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic Series  
21:20 ..... Local reportage  
22:00 ..... Varieties  
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Varieties Contd.

## PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Champs Elysees  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Champs Elysees contd.  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Double Trouble (comedy)  
21:10 ..... Orara (detective series)  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... The Unknown War (documentary)  
23:10 ..... Open All Hours (comedy)

# RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM  
& partly on 96.0 KHz. SW

Tel: 77111-19

07:00 ..... Light Music  
07:30 ..... Newsdesk  
08:00 ..... Morning Show  
10:00 ..... News Summary  
10:10 ..... Just a Minute  
11:00 ..... Follow the Wind  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:45 ..... 30-Minute Theatre  
13:00 ..... News Summary  
13:05 ..... Pop Session Contd.  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:15 ..... Instrumentals  
14:30 ..... Pop Talk  
15:00 ..... Concert Hour  
15:00 ..... News Summary  
16:05 ..... Instrumentals  
16:20 ..... Old Favourites  
17:00 ..... Science Report  
17:30 ..... Pop Session  
18:00 ..... News Summary  
18:05 ..... Top Twenty  
18:30 ..... Musical  
19:00 ..... News Desk  
19:30 ..... Date with a Star  
20:00 ..... Evening Show

21:00 ..... News Summary  
21:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.  
22:00 ..... News Summary  
22:05 ..... Evening Show Continued  
23:00 ..... News Summary  
23:05 ..... Evening Show Continued  
24:00 ..... Close Down

## BBC WORLD SERVICE

6.30, 7.20, 12.33 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Musical Landscapes 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:20 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Counterpoint 09:45 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 The Editors 10:45 News Report U.K. 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 The Bare-Faced Crow 11:30 News Music 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 Good Books 12:30 Detective 12:45 Greenish Army Friends 13:00 24 Hours: News Summary 13:30 Music 13:40 A Word in Edgeways 14:00 World News 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 Sportsweek 14:30 Album Time 14:45 Newsdesk 15:00 World Hoax 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sportsweek 16:45 Sportsweek 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Science Landscapes 18:00 Radio Newsworld 18:15 Questions of Faith 18:45 Kings of Swing 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:30 Performing Early Music 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 Open Door Policies 20:40 Book Choice 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:50 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk

## VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,  
11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 6:10 Newswire 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newswire 07:30 VOA Morning 07:40 News 08:10 Newswire 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:10 Newswire 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newswire 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 11:00 Newswire 11:10 Focus 11:30 Special English News & Features 11:40 News 11:50 Newswire 12:00 News 12:10 Newswire 12:20 News 12:30 Special English News & Features 12:40 News 12:50 Newswire 13:00 News 13:10 Music USA 13:30 News & Editorial 13:15 Music USA 13:40 News 14:00 News 14:10 Report



## Jordan remembers King Talal



King Talal bin Abdullah

AMMAN (Petra) — Today marks the 15th anniversary of the death of King Talal bin Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein and eldest son of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

King Talal assumed his constitutional powers on Sept. 6th 1951 and embarked on implementing the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt.

He began his reign by introducing reforms in the national constitution with the purpose of developing political life in the country.

But illness prevented the King from pursuing his goal and he handed the standard to his son King Hussein on August 11, 1952.

King Talal was born in Mecca in 1909 and received military training at Sandhurst Military College in Britain. He was the first Jordanian army officer to graduate from the college in 1939.

King Talal took part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 and fought alongside the Jordanian Armed Forces in defence of the Arab land and Palestine.

## Fayez: Arabs need to unite stands

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Akef Al Fayez called on Arab parliamentarians Monday to live up to the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation and said the proposed international peace conference is the only forum for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Fayez said conspiracies engineered against the Arab nation should prompt Arab parliamentarians to shoulder their responsibilities towards their Arab nation.

Mr. Fayez said in a statement that Israel, backed by the United States, has worked for the past 30 years to prolong its occupation of the Arab territories and turn the occupation into a permanent situation.

Within this context, the statement said, Israel has enacted legislation giving it the right to take Jerusalem as its capital, build settlements on Arab lands and implement oppressive measures against Palestinian Arabs living under Israeli occupation.

Mr. Fayez added that Israel has continually denied Palestinians their legitimate rights and rejected international resolutions aimed at reaching a just, peaceful and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Although Arab divisions have encouraged Israel to escalate oppressive measures against Arabs, he said the Karameh battle in 1968, the October War in 1973 and the joint Lebanese-Palestinian resistance in Lebanon have proved that Arabs can counter Israeli measures if they succeed in mobilising their resources and powers.

## Pact signed to build more SOS Children's Villages

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Austrian-based International Children's Villages Association signed an agreement Monday to set up additional SOS children's villages and projects in Jordan.

Under the agreement, the association, in cooperation with the Jordanian government, the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan and other voluntary organisations, will develop one or more children's villages in Jordan, the location and size of which will be determined at a later time.

The association, again in cooperation with the above groups, also develops associated projects such as bakeries, groceries, farms, workshops and schools.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and a representative of the International Children's Villages Association in Jordan.

The agreement is part of an accord signed between Jordan and the International Children's Villages Association in February 1983 to set up SOS children's villages in Jordan.

SOS Children's Villages were founded by Hermann Gmeiner, an Austrian professor who died last April. These villages are recognised world-wide as models for family-oriented care and education for orphaned and abandoned children.

## Lower House to elect new Bethlehem deputy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament will elect a new deputy to replace the late deputy Hanna Bannourah from the Bethlehem constituency, who died in January.

A total of eight persons are contesting the seat and the House Secretariat announced that no more contestants will be accepted.

The replacement of deputy Sheikh Saud Al Qadi, who passed away last week, will also be discussed.

Parliament's present term ends in January 1988, but a Royal Decree could extend its term by one or two more years. If not, general elections would be called before the end of this year.

The parliament's financial committee met Monday and approved the revised law of the accounting bureau and the draft law of Jordan's University of Science and Technology for 1987. The committee will also hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss an amendment to the budget law.

## Gunboat rockets supertanker carrying Iranian oil

(Continued from page 1)

with Kuwait in the last week of June and its chief war spokesman said in a speech reported on Monday that the United States would face humiliation if it went ahead with plans to reflag and protect Kuwaiti tankers.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of Iran's parliament, said the reflagging, plan-

ned for mid-July, was a major mistake by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

If Washington went ahead with this and if the ships continued to be attacked, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Mr. Rafsanjani as saying on Sunday, it would result in humiliation for the United States.

Iran was not like Vietnam where the United States had

military bases, Mr. Rafsanjani told a group of ground military commanders. In the case of Iran he added, the United States had to fight from the sea and would have to leave the Gulf humiliated.

Iran's navy commander, Commodore Mohammad Hussein Malekzadeh, said as early as May 13 that anti-ship missiles employed by Iran in the Gulf region were ready for use.



EVERYTHING READY: Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Jerash Festival site and reviewed final preparations for the sixth annual festival due to be officially opened on Wednesday. Queen Noor toured the different parts of the site and inspected the booths and main areas where cultural activities will be staged. The Queen stressed the importance of providing appropriate facilities to ensure the visitors comfort and to help achieve the main objectives behind the holding of the festival. Queen Noor was accompanied on the visit by the Jerash Festival Higher National Committee members (Petra photo).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince condoles Khasawneh family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday deputed Irbid Police Director Brigadier Abdel Rahman Adwan to convey condolences to Al Khasawneh family on the passing away of the A'isha Abdullah Khasawneh.

### Mrs. Latta contributes to mental health centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Mental Health Society and of the General Union of Voluntary Societies Abdullah Khatib Monday received a cheque in the amount of JD 6,782 as donation to the society to help it finance its projects. The cheque was handed to Dr. Khatib by Mrs. Hafida Latta, wife of the director of British Council in Amman, who collected the amount from schools, banks and the international community. This contribution, the third of its kind in three years, brings to JD 19,782 the amounts raised by Mrs. Latta. Money raised by Mrs. Latta has been used to fund a special education centre in Baqa camp, which caters for 50 handicapped children.

### Iraq to import 122m eggs by year's end

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraq will have imported 122 million eggs from Jordan by the end of this year, said Mr. Mahmoud Malahmeh, economic advisor at the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad. The total cost of this egg deal is \$8 million. Mr. Malahmeh said that the Jordanian cooperative society for marketing eggs, in accordance with agreements concluded with the Iraqi company for foodstuffs, supply the Iraqi market with eggs according to a specific schedule.

### Muasher attends Moroccan economic meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher left for Morocco Monday heading a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meetings with the joint Jordanian-Moroccan economic committee in Rabat, Morocco today. During its meetings, the joint committee will discuss bolstering trade and economic relations between the two countries and increasing the volume of trade.

### Jordan, Sudan sign cement agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan have signed a trade agreement in Khartoum in which Jordan will export \$450,000 worth of cement to Sudan, according to the Jordan Trade Centres Corporation (JTCC) Director General Ghazi Diab, who returned from Sudan Sunday. Under the deal, he said, Jordan will also import millet from Sudan amounting to half the cement sum. Mr. Diab said more deals will be signed to export Jordanian medicines to Sudan and to import various agricultural products. He added a Jordanian trade centre has been opened in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum to market Jordanian products.

### Over JD 1m collected in land fees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Survey Department collected JD 1,225,362 in fees for land registration deeds and other additional taxes and fees during June compared with JD 1,313,735 during the same period in 1986.

## ACDIMA to set up subsidiary with capital of \$15 million

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) Muwaffaq Haddadin said on Monday that the ACDIMA has decided to set up a subsidiary pan-Arab company with a capital of \$15 million.

The new company, a pan-Arab public shareholding company for veterinary drugs and appliances based in Jordan, will be operational in three years.

Dr. Haddadin and director of the newly set up company, Abdul Mutaleb Nasser, thanked Jordan for the support extended to them and for the exemptions it offered to the company.

At a press conference held here

on Monday, Dr. Haddadin said that Jordan's support of the establishment of the company is a practical application of Jordan's commitment to joint Arab work.

Dr. Haddadin said that the company will produce 60 per cent of the Arab World's requirements of veterinary drugs.

He added that at present the Arab World imports approximately 80 per cent of its require-

ments of these drugs from abroad.

Dr. Haddadin said that Jordan was selected as the headquarters for the new company because of its commitment towards joint Arab work and its experience in the production of veterinary products.

Dr. Haddadin then reviewed achievements of ACDIMA which was established in 1976 with a capital of 60 million Kuwaiti dinars, saying that it has completed studies for setting up new industries in Sudan, Morocco, Libya and Qatar. The company is now supervising a number of drug companies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

## UNRWA special session convenes to address financial shortages

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Delegations from Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees and from countries that contribute to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) met Monday in Vienna for a two-day extraordinary session, the second in the history of UNRWA, called by the agency's general commissioner.

According to a source at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, the session was deemed necessary after reviewing the financial status of UNRWA. "The first session was held in May 1985 after UNRWA suffered a big deficit in its budget," he said.

However, despite renewed appeals from the U.N. General Assembly to all governments to contribute to UNRWA annual contributions have not increased in proportion to the rise in expenditure.

UNRWA, which was created 37 years ago by the U.N. General Assembly, uses the support it receives to carry out relief pro-

grammes and provides basic services for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians made refugees following the creation of the state of Israel, and the 1967 Middle East war. Registered refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza have received assistance from UNRWA for education, health and relief services, including food, shelter and environmental sanitation.

To date there is a registered population of 2,145,000 Palestinian refugees and a staff of more than 17,000 people working in five countries and territories.

In operating its assistance programme, UNRWA works closely with the governments of the host countries.

UNRWA's budget, unlike the budgets of other United Nations agencies, is dependent on voluntary contributions, except for the costs of its international staff which are paid for by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

Approximately 70 governments, the European Community, 60 other non-governmental

organisations, church groups and businesses contribute to UNRWA, as well as individuals.

However, with the drop in donations, rise in regional and world inflation rate, and the natural increase in refugee population, UNRWA's ability to remain financially and administratively viable is at risk.

The source at the ministry said the Arab host countries, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, and contributing countries, are discussing UNRWA's 1988-90 development programme "in the hope that countries will donate more," he said.

He added that the host countries asked "to receive aid according to the needs of the refugees," and for special help for the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon in all fields.

The overall number of countries attending the session is 40, according to the source. The Jordanian delegation is headed by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under-secretary at the ministry of occupied territories, and includes Osama Tabboub, head of refugee affairs at the ministry, and Jordanian ambassador in Geneva, Farouk Khasawneh.

## France restates support of call for peace conference

(Continued from page 1)

and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including "Palestinian representatives."

Asked whether France supported the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the foreign minister referred to his country's reaffirmation of the European Community's Venice Declaration of June 1980 stating that the PLO "should be associated with any settlement" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Raimond, who earlier met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, said that during his talks with the Jordanian side, "we observed that the idea of the conference is making progress."

He refused to answer a question on whether his country was considering an arms package to Jordan.

On his country's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war, Mr. Raimond said that France's policy concerning the Iran-Iraq war "has not

changed," and that Paris had no intention to sell arms to Iran. France is Iraq's primary source for arms.

Mr. Raimond, who left home later in the day, said there has been no tangible progress on the normalisation of relations between Paris and Tehran.

Citing a break in diplomatic contacts with Iran and a strain over an Iranian embassy employee who had taken refuge at the embassy against a French prosecutor's summons, Mr. Raimond said that at the moment, "there is nothing to negotiate."

On French aid for the occupied territories, Mr. Raimond said France has sent an expert "to speed up work" on a number of projects that had been defined by

his government.

During his talks with Mr. Raimond, Mr. Masri underlined the important role France can play in peace efforts as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It said Mr. Masri reviewed with Mr. Raimond "Israeli arbitrary practices against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, particularly by increasing settlements and escalating acts of aggression and provocation." These practices, Mr. Masri said, were aimed at driving Palestinians out of their lands.

The talks, attended by aides to both ministers, also discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations and cooperation.

## Assad meets U.S. envoy

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador in Damascus since last October when William Eagleton was recalled after Britain accused Syria of involvement in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner flying from London. Damascus denied the charge.

Mr. Reagan sent a message to

Mr. Assad two weeks ago, indicating he wanted to end the rift with Syria.

Mr. Reagan's message was carried to Mr. Assad by U.S. diplomat Wai T. Cluverius, a veteran Middle East ambassador, on June 19 when Mr. Assad was on vacation at his summer home near the Mediterranean seaport of Latakia.

## Murphy, Polyakov begin talks

(Continued from page 1)

Washington would reconsider its plans to build up its naval force in the Gulf if the Soviets also get out of the region (See page 2).

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Polyakov will also lay out the latest superpower positions on a Middle East peace conference aimed at resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

American officials said recently Mr. Murphy would tell Mr. Polyakov that Moscow had not earned the "right to participate" in such an international conference.

The Murphy-Polyakov discussions on the proposed Middle East peace conference are reported likely to be followed by a meeting in Geneva later this week between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Mubarak comes here to

address on Friday the plenary assembly of the 168-nation United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the world's principal forum for North-South negotiations.

## Businessman killed in armed robbery

(Continued from page 1)

following currencies, police said: 20,000 Jordanian dinars, 50,000 American dollars, 20,000 sterling pounds, 100,000 Saudi riyals, 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars, 10 million Italian lire, 25,000 French francs, 2,100 Swedish kroners, 15,000 Austrian schillings, 1,600 Australian dollars, 3,500 Danish crowns, 120,000 Yugoslav dinars and 1,500 Moroccan dirhams.

## WANTED FOR RENT

Independent villa, with swimming pool if possible, in one of the following locations: Shmeisani, Abdoun, 5th-8th Circles, Mecca Street.

Pls call 635683 on Tuesday 7/7/87 between 8.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.



Photos from Zohrab Makarian's exhibit "Panoramas of Jordan" which opens publicly today at the Royal Cultural Centre. On the left, Wadi Rum; on the right, Petra.

## Queen opens 'Panoramas of Jordan' photo exhibition at the RCC

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor opened a remarkable photography exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Monday. The photographs are remarkable not only because of their quality which is consistently high, and not only because of their subject matter, which as it is Jordan is breathtaking, but also because of their sheer size.

Measuring one and a half metres by half a metre they span great areas of countryside, giving new meaning to the word panoramic. Taken with a special camera, the Fujica G617, the photographs are the work of one of Jordan's best-known photographers, Zohrab Makarian, who

has been the official photographer to His Majesty King Hussein since 1975.

Entitled "Panoramas of Jordan," Mr. Zohrab has travelled the country to be in certain places at certain times to catch these scenes which for him, epitomise the country's extraordinary beauty.

The 40 odd photographs capture a wide range of the country's diversity — from the old mountain-top town of Karak to the salt-encrusted shores of the Dead Sea; from a lonely stone stairway in Beida to the carpet of wild flowers that clothe the hills of Pella. Devoid for the most part of signs of human occupation, each picture has its own special atmosphere, but none more so than Mr.

Zohrab's shots of Wadi Rum. Along with the more familiar shots of the area — the great jagged rocks rising vertically out of miles of naked sand — is one just of sand.

The gently sloping dune, its surface as smooth and as perfect as a wide yellow river, flows across the picture, half in shade, half luminously lit with the last rays of the setting sun. The only living thing under the whispy clouds in a soft blue sky is a small bare tree. It is a tremendously romantic image, redolent of Lawrence, of nature's unconquerable harshness dressed so deceptively.

Another stunning image is that of the southern shores of the Dead Sea. Coated with glistening

crystals of salt, the rocks gleam like mountain tops clad with snow, but here the stalactites hang not over chilly precipices, but over smooth warm green waters which turn pink under the hazy touch of the sun.

A strange paradoxical image of a strange paradoxical area, it captures the imagination and lets it run, as do the shots of the surrounding area where odd-shaped rocks stand like sentinels guarding stony fortresses where faces of animals, monsters and people with their pagan prehistoric connotations can be endlessly deciphered.

Calmer and less unsettling are Mr. Zohrab's photographs of Jordan's more northern climes. Taken in the spring, they are, like the three shots of Wadi Seer,

lushly green. In the valley that leads to the old Hellenistic ruins of Iraq Al Amir, it is the tall slim poplar trees with their silvery grey bark that catch the attention and it is on these that Mr. Zohrab has concentrated. Turning the camera sideways he emphasises their shape while in the other shots he contrasts their late barrenness with the verdancy all around — the crops of vegetables in their neat rows, the tall grasses lining the banks of the swiftly flowing stream.

In the Ajloun area, Mr. Zohrab has caught the fields of yellow and purple flowers that cover the ground under the tidy rows of olive trees between old stone walls; in Ma'an, a square of white in squares of flat brown

furrow; in the Ghor, the calm water of the sluggish Jordan River reflects every branch and leaf that overhangs its banks.

With the exception of a few portrait and fashion shots grouped together at the end, Mr. Zohrab has maintained a strong sense of theme with each shot unified by an underlying emotional content. Within the exhibition are also many avenues of potential and it is hoped Mr. Zohrab will explore these as perceptively and as intelligently as he has this satisfying show.

Following the end of the exhibition on July 12, Mr. Zohrab, in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Airlines, will display the photographs in a number of European countries and the United States.



## Jordan Times

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Responsible Editor and Director General:  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
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Jordan Times advertising department.

### Time is running out

AMMAN is in the midst of a political and diplomatic hubbub. The shuttle diplomacy conducted by His Majesty King Hussein and other high-ranking Jordanian officials in and outside our region has been followed by back-to-back visits to the Jordanian capital by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. King Hussein's recurring visits to Damascus and Baghdad over recent months were clearly aimed at consolidating inter-Arab relations, especially between Damascus and Baghdad. The working visit to Damascus paid by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday must be viewed also in this vein. It is part of an effort by Jordan to harmonise the positions of the principle Arab capitals and coordinate their efforts in the face of the many crises confronting the Arab World. There is no denying that Jordan has left no stone unturned to strengthen Arab resolve and coordination, and to mobilise international support to convene an effective international conference on the Palestinian conflict and to end the Gulf war.

His Majesty the King confirmed this in an interview with the Austrian Profil magazine conducted during the Austrian president's recent visit to Jordan. He said that efforts for convening an international conference had made progress and reached a crucial stage, yet the final crossroad had not been reached. The King attributed the failure thus far to bring the conference idea to fruition to divisions within the Israeli leadership. And as the talks of the Austrian president in Amman had ended in the reaffirmation of Austria's support for the conference idea, the French foreign minister's official visit to Amman has confirmed France's unequivocal support for the principle of an international conference. Yet, while confirming that such a meeting had gained considerable momentum, Mr. Raimond conceded that divisions within the Israeli coalition government remained one of the main obstacles. The French foreign minister's visit comes in the wake of the European Community's endorsement last February of the conference idea.

The upshot of all these activities has yet to be determined. We are all hoping that the Palestinian problem can be settled. The obstacles are formidable, yet, the consequences of failure are ominous for all sides. Whether we ultimately have a conference or not, no-one can accuse Jordan of not trying its utmost to put the peace process on the right track. Israel and its supporters will have to be on the top of the blame list. We caution again that keeping the peace process suspended much longer will mean trouble and instability in our region. As for the Arab side of the equation, we must be prepared to confront the result.

#### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Solidarity drive continues

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Assad of Syria and Prime Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Al Kasm are considered part of the on-going contacts between Jordan and Syria. These contacts are necessary in view of the fast moving developments in the Middle East region. The King's visit to Turkey and the Austrian president's visit to Jordan were discussed by Mr. Rifai and the Syrian leaders. But most importantly King Hussein's visit to Baghdad and his talks with President Saddam Hussein were the most important topics, because Jordan is trying to end differences among Arab states and achieve solidarity and unity of ranks among them. Syria and Jordan are keen on maintaining the strongest possible ties and both are spearheading efforts to convene an international conference and end the Middle East problem. They are also concerned over the continuing Gulf conflict and want to see an end to the war that has been raging for seven years. The leaderships in Amman and Damascus realise the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East as a result of the outstanding issues and they continue coordination of efforts and stands to help bring an end to inter-Arab differences and pursue their efforts towards prosperity.

### Al Dustour: Power dictates

AN Israeli army general, Rabinovich Zievi, has issued a call to his government to force the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territory to leave their homeland. This call which echoes the one issued sometime ago by Meir Kahane in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, reflects the general public thinking in Israel and is the major objective of the world Zionism. In fact the Israeli government has been undertaking measures and practices aimed at achieving Zievi's aims and the objectives of world Zionism. It has been conducting arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants and seizing Arab land and water resources in a bid to force the Arabs to leave. Zievi's call was in response to Kahane's earlier calls and falls in line with the Israeli government's far-reaching goals. Both Zievi and Kahane represent Israel's policies and the actual plans of Zionism in the occupied Arab lands. The Israeli soldiers and settlers are only tools implementing orders and helping to achieve the common goal. We do not want to condemn or issue curses against the Zionists because they cannot do any good, but we would like to urge Arab countries to hold a summit meeting and find means of confronting Israel's plots.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan continues search for peace

JORDAN over the years succeeded in establishing for itself world-wide credibility which this country is careful to maintain and strengthen. King Hussein's national stands and continued efforts to achieve solidarity among Arab countries have gained this country more reputation and added credibility because the King's endeavours are aimed at building bridges of cooperation and ending Arab differences among Arab leaders, something much wanted under the current circumstances. This Jordanian endeavour is not to the taste of the common enemies because unity of ranks within the Arab Nation means a solid front that can deter all acts of aggression directed on the Arab World. On the international level, the King has met with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and has met with the French foreign minister and continues contacts with European leaders for the sake of bringing peace to this part of the world. On the other hand the Israelis, the common enemies of the Arab Nation, have been laying obstacles in the path of peace and trying hard to abort all attempts for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

## 'Tanker war' in Gulf claims more than 200 lives

By Larry Thorson  
The Associated Press

LONDON — The 11 Kuwaiti merchant ships that will fly the U.S. flag include three battle-scarred veterans of the "tanker war" between Iran and Iraq, a conflict that has claimed more than 200 lives.

Attacks on tankers are secondary compared with land battles that have killed more than 1 million people by most estimates since the war began in September 1980.

But the tanker war could cause the world price of oil to skyrocket. The U.S.-led Western powers are using substantial portions of their naval armories to try to enforce a doctrine of freedom of navigation in international waters of the oil-rich Gulf.

In the latest attacks on June 27, Iranian gunboats attacked two Scandinavian supertankers, setting them afire and badly wounding a Norwegian seaman.

The U.S. navy's escort operation will enlarge the American presence in and around the Gulf. It will include the carrier Constellation and the battleship Missouri to provide means to retaliate if Iran attacks U.S.-flag vessels.

Despite attempts to mediate an

end to the war, 1986 was the worst year for merchant shipping in the Gulf with 107 attacks. And 1987, with 56 attacks listed even before the weekend attacks, is running at an equally dangerous pace.

The two sides are using everything to strike at commercial shipping, from machine guns to sophisticated missiles, like the Exocets fired by Iraq that killed 37 American sailors on the USS Stark on May 17.

Still, about 400 commercial ships ply the Gulf every day, and nearly all get away unscathed.

"The Gulf is not Exocet alley," said Brian Parkinson, spokesman for the General Council of British shipping. "The attacks are isolated, and it's important that the shipping war is seen in its context."

However, Parkinson expressed concern about mines that attacked four tankers in recent weeks about 30 miles off Kuwait's coastal refineries.

The U.S. navy is reported to have sent minesweepers to clear the hazard. Authorities are trying to determine if the mines were planted there or drifted from some earlier emplacement.

"We hope the combatants are not going in for a policy of mining in international waters," Parkinson said.

son said.

Lloyd's Maritime Information Services — an arm of the Lloyd's of London insurance market that collects information on shipping damages worldwide — said in a report commissioned by the Associated Press that as of last week, 324 attacks were recorded on merchant shipping in the Gulf since May 1981, including ships damaged by mines.

At first, Iraq had the field to itself. Starting in 1981, it hit repeatedly at Iranian shipping in an attempt to choke off the oil exports that finance Iran's war effort. In 1984, Iran began retaliatory strikes. Since then, Lloyd's has recorded 264 attacks up to last week, 164 by Iraq, 100 by Iran.

Since Iraq has closed its ports and no Iraqi ships ply the Gulf, Iranian retaliation has been concentrated mostly on Kuwaiti vessels or ships of other flags heading for Kuwait, which borders Iraq.

On June 27, however, Iranian gunboats attacked the Norwegian-owned, 122,445-tonne Mia Margrethe and the Swedish-owned 250,000-tonne Stena Concordia.

Maritime salvage executives in Bahrain said the Mia Margrethe was hit after leaving Kuwait with

a partial load of oil and the Stena Concordia while bound for Kuwait to load oil.

Iran regards Kuwait as Iraq's most important backer and suspects that Kuwait and other Gulf states have permitted Iraqi planes to refuel after attacking Iranian targets, the Lloyd's report said.

The target of the first Iranian attack, on May 13, 1984, was the 79,999-tonne Kuwaiti tanker Umm Casbah. It was slightly damaged by a missile while in mid-Gulf about 85 miles north of Bahrain.

Now the Umm Casbah has been renamed the Ocean City and will have an American skipper and U.S. navy protection.

Two others of the 11 refueled Kuwaiti ships also have suffered past hits, Lloyd's said. The 294,739-tonne Kazimiah survived two hits — June 10, 1984, and Christmas day 1985 — and is being refueled at the Townsend. The Al Fintas, a 290,085-tonne tanker caught fire after taking three hits last Sept. 16, was repaired and now will be named the Middleton.

Iran's main oil-exporting facilities are in the Gulf. They have been repeatedly attacked by the Iraqis, who concentrated on Iranian shuttle tankers shifting oil toward points safe enough for

other nations' ships to pick it up.

"More often than not, following Iraqi attacks on Iranian shuttle tankers, the Iranians themselves then attacked vessels trading with Kuwait and other Gulf states in retaliation," the Lloyd's report said.

"Military experts believed that (the Iraqi) attacks were made possible by Iraq's purchase of at least 100 French-made Mirage F1 jets."

Iran has little of the Iraqi aerial punch and has instead mounted its attacks from helicopter gunships or naval vessels, often at night.

Prowling the Gulf, Iranian warships assert their right to stop and search vessels bound for Kuwait and other states on the western Gulf shore to see if they are carrying war material for Iraq.

The Lloyd's report said such searches can be preludes to attack.

After stopping a vessel and inquiring about its cargo and course, the Iranian gunboat "will then allow the vessel to continue on her voyage, often leaving her in the belief that she will not be attacked," the Lloyd's report said.

"Then, within hours, an Iranian helicopter or gunboat will

close in on the unsuspecting vessel for an attack."

Such searches are common. The official Iranian news agency, in a report on last Wednesday's war action, said Iranian vessels "intercepted and searched six cargo ships and tankers in the Hormuz Strait," the entrance of the Gulf.

Britain's navy has two warships on patrol in the Gulf, assisting British vessels. The British decline to use the word "escort" because it would imply recognition of Iran's declaration of a war zone in the area.

Parkinson said the royal navy's assistance seemed to have strong deterrence value against attack.

He said one of the few British vessels fired on this year, the tanker Isomeria, had not had its voyage noted by the royal navy and therefore wasn't under guard when five Iranian missiles were fired at it. It was not hit.

He expressed little optimism that there would be safe shipping in the Gulf as long as Iran and Iraq are at war.

"The shipping war is very much a sideshow for them," Parkinson said. "Without a settlement, the chances of getting a guarantee not to have attacks on merchant shipping are pretty remote."

## Iran's navy could wage 'guerrilla war' against U.S.

By Ed Blanche  
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — If the United States and Iran should clash in the Gulf, the Iranian navy is more likely to wage a "guerrilla war at sea" than carry out large-scale attacks against U.S. warships, military analysts believe.

Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, warned Sunday that the United States is on the brink of "an armed encounter with Iran" in the Gulf.

The Iranian navy and the naval wing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards have been staging a show of force in the Gulf since Saturday with manoeuvres to heighten their combat readiness as more U.S. warships head for the region.

The navy commander, Commander Mohammad Hussein Malekzadegan, says he has assembled a force "unprecedented in Iranian naval his-

tory" — more than 80 warships, helicopter gunships, armed hovercraft and logistics vessels — to counter the "American threat in the Persian Gulf."

The Iranians have held the upper hand against Iraq at sea in the nearly seven-year-old Gulf war. But arms embargoes have deprived Iran's 14,500-man navy of badly needed spare parts.

Its main warships are expected to remain in coastal defence roles, avoiding contact with American ships. Tehran's missile-armed destroyers and frigates are not expected to pose much more than "a good deal of nuisance value" to the United States, said Major Bob Elliott of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

But the Kaman-class fast attack craft, armed with U.S.-made Harpoon ship-to-ship missiles, could be "lethal assets in terms of a confrontation with U.S. destroyers, frigates and cruisers,"

Elliott said.

The Iranians had eight of these when the war broke out in September 1980, but the strategic institute believes only three are fully operational now.

Iran's major naval units, three U.S.-built destroyers and four British-built Seacat-class frigates with Seakiller missiles, will likely be confined to protecting Iranian ports and bases, Elliott said.

"They're too big a target," he said. "The Iranians are unlikely to take on a major naval force in the Gulf head-on. What we've got here is more likely a guerrilla war at sea."

Only two of Iran's frigates are believed to be operational. They have been in action in recent months attacking unarmed freighters and tankers in the Gulf with Italian-made Seakiller missiles.

Another Western analyst, who spoke on condition he was not

named, said, "The greatest threat is probably going to be suicide attacks in small boats or something like that."

The Revolutionary Guards, ardent followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, are considered the most potent threat. They have vowed to carry out suicide attacks against U.S. warships.

The guards, or Pasdaran, have been carrying out nighttime attacks on ships and laying mines from Swedish-built speedboats operating out of four tiny islands and an abandoned oil platform.

Pilots have also been recruited from the Revolutionary Guards for kamikaze-style missions, according to five Iranian air force officers who defected in London earlier this year.

They said these squads are based at the big Iranian naval base at Bandar Abbas in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf.

"They may have the pilots," Elliott said. "But we don't believe they have the planes for these suicide missions."

The Revolutionary Guards, whose naval and air wings were formed last year on Khomeini's orders, are not believed to have any vessels larger than the speedboats.

While their thin hulls make them vulnerable, these small craft can be elusive. They often hide among fishing fleets, darting out to attack. It makes them difficult to hit in an air strike or by cannon fire from warships.

The Revolutionary Guards are responsible for at least some of the Chinese-made HY-2 anti-ship missiles deployed on the island of Qeshm and near Khusak on the mainland in the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. defence planners consider these missiles, with a range of 80 kilometres and a warhead weighing up to 450 kilograms

the major threat to shipping. Elliott said another Silkorm battery has been located on the Fao Peninsula in southeast Iraq. The peninsula was overrun by Iran in February 1986.

The Iranian navy has a small air wing, but its operational capability has also been badly depleted. Its two U.S.-built P-3 Orion maritime patrol planes still fly, but their radar and other equipment are no longer believed to be functioning.

But the navy's AS-212 helicopters, rigged to fire wire-guided AS-12 anti-ship missiles, have attacked scores of ships in the so-called tanker war, a three-year-old offshoot of the main conflict.

Iran and Iraq have attacked about 250 ships of all nationalities in the Gulf since February 1984, killing more than 100 seamen. More than 30 of the ships were declared total losses.

## Britain remains South Africa's closest friend

By Robert Ricci  
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Within minutes of her election victory last month, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received a near-euphoric congratulatory message from South Africa's President P.W. Botha.

It was a relief to both of them. South Africa has no closer economic friend than Britain.

While the country is pounded by American-led sanctions and disinvestment by scores of U.S. companies, the British seem committed to retain major business links with South Africa.

Britain is the largest foreign investor in South Africa and its fourth biggest trading partner.

"The involvement of British business is extensive and we see no political benefits derived from reducing that economic stake," said a British diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

British investments total between \$3.12 and \$3.75 billion, according to estimates by business sources in both countries. This compares with \$1.75 billion dollars in 1981, the last year for which official figures are available.

In 1986 Britain went along with a voluntary ban on new investment in South Africa drawn up by the Commonwealth countries.

But British companies "can choose and still do continue new investments with impunity," a British business source said.

Thatcher's election victory reassured the white business community which feared her defeat would have led to deep cuts in trade and an exodus among the estimated 200 British firms established here.

Any other result would have been bad news for South Africa, said the Financial Mail magazine.

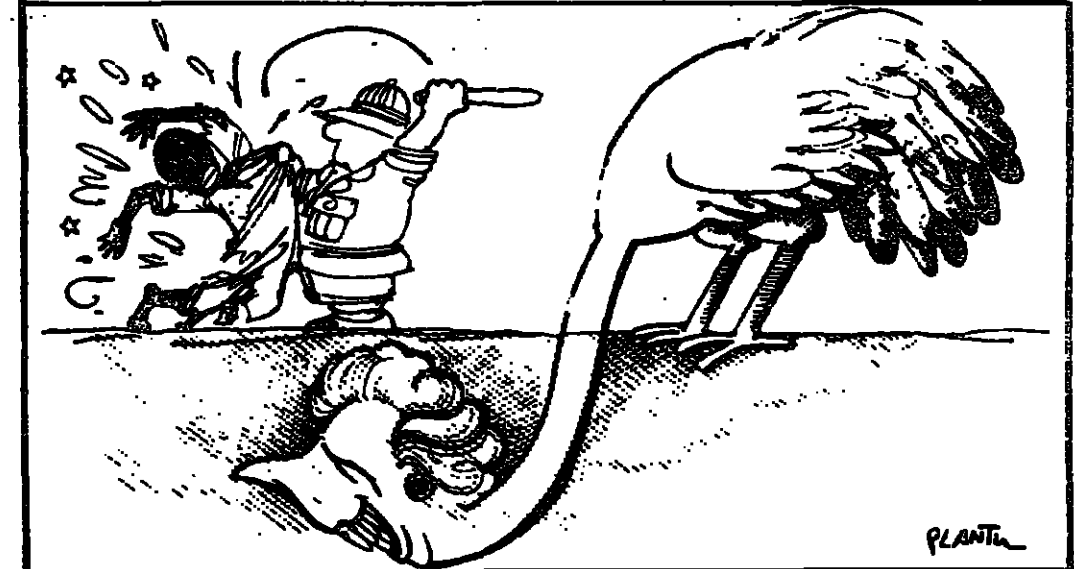
With U.S. firms pulling out, South Africa relies more than ever on the British link. "I am sure as our economy picks up the British will be very interested in expanding trade with us," a government official said.

"We'll surely begin importing more capital from Britain which can only be to their benefit," he added.

The worst British disinvestment shock to South Africa was last November's pullout by Barclays Bank. There were fears of disengagement by many more British firms.

Predictions abounded that companies such as the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, and British Petroleum would also consider pullouts under pressure from anti-apartheid groups. But this has not happened.

Business experts said British companies operating here were



usually larger and far more profitable than departing American firms and did not have the luxury of returning to a big domestic market.

British business involvement in South Africa was a "totally different chessboard than the United States," said Eynone Roux, executive manager of the South Africa-Britain Trade Association which promotes two-way trade links.

"There are many English living here (about 800,000 British passport holders)," Roux said.

"South Africa is an ex-colony so the emotional implications are enormous and I don't think it would be easy for Britain to sever relations."

The official British government position is that up to 120,000 jobs in Britain still depend on trade with South Africa.

A local British businessman sounded a warning, however, that British companies with growing ties to the U.S. might be pressured by American anti-apartheid activists to cut commitments to South Africa.

"It's the American connection that some British firms have that is causing some of us to look at our position in South Africa," he said.

Britain's Trade and Industry Department, in background, briefing note to British businessmen in May, said South Africa "continues to be an important

and traditional U.K. export market, with a good payments record, where British goods are well regarded."

Britain once ran a hefty trade surplus with South Africa — as high as \$309 million in 1984. But the surplus dropped to \$12 million in 1985 and improved only slightly to \$14 million last year.

Analysts attribute the decline to South Africa's weak economy, the fall in the value of South Africa's rand currency and limited economic sanctions by Britain.

British exports to South Africa last year totalled \$525 million against imports worth \$311 million of South African goods to Britain.

## South Koreans say struggle is far from over

By Barry Renfrew  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Koreans facing the end of decades of authoritarian rule say the struggle for a democratic government is far from over and that hope may quickly give way to chaos.

President Chun Doo-hwan's promise of sweeping reforms to end nationwide turmoil is seen as the first step in building a stable democratic system. But few people are willing to predict smooth sailing in a nation that has never had a peaceful transfer of power.

Leaders on both sides say the nation must end its tradition of coups and riots and build a political system based on compromise, discussion and elections.

No one is saying how it can be done.

Already there are problems, including signs of division with the opposition, restlessness among students and other radical groups and the unknown intentions of the powerful Korean military. In addition, the gov-

erning Democratic Justice Party is still strong and says it intends to stay in power after Chun steps down in February.

In an editorial, the Korea Herald said the nation still faces a "thorny search for political maturity."

Chun last week accepted opposition demands for direct presidential elections and broad reforms to end the stringent political controls his government imposed on many aspects of Korean life.

Direct elections to replace the electoral college system were a key demand of protesters who staged 18 straight days of demonstrations throughout the nation last month.

The government and its opponents face long talks on revising the constitution to clear the way for elections. Difficult negotiations are expected after years of bitter divisions between the two sides in a country where compromise is regarded as a sign of weakness.

Under a government timetable,

the election would be held this year.

The governing party has a powerful political machine that won national assembly elections in 1985 in what was considered a relatively fair contest and says it intends to win this election.

Both sides already are campaigning.

Democratic Justice Party chief Roh Tae-woo, Chun's hand-picked successor who suddenly demanded Chun give in to the opposition at a crucial point, is being portrayed as the hero who saved the nation and cleared the way for democracy. Political observers say he could win the election.

The opposition Reunification Democratic Party is grappling with internal divisions that have torn it apart before. The key issue will be selecting a presidential candidate, with party leader Kim Young-Sam facing a possible threat from his older rival, Kim Dae-Jung.

Kim Dae-Jung insisted in the past he would not run for the

presidency, but he has started to back off from those statements, saying his supporters are pleading for him to reconsider.

The opposition admits it lacks comprehensive political, social and economic programmes to present to the nation, and an election platform must be quickly worked out.

"This is a weakness we recognise and are working hard to correct," Kim Young-Sam told the Associated Press in a recent interview.

Roh and the Democratic Justice Party are claiming credit for the "economic miracle" that transformed South Korea into a major economic power in recent years. Their election platform is a promise to increase national prosperity, and some political observers say it could be a potent theme with the country's middle classes.

"People want democracy, but they also want to keep the economy going and go on with the good life," said a Western diplomat, who refused to be identified.

For years, the middle classes shunned politics, but that changed last month when businessmen in suits, housewives and shopkeepers poured into the streets to denounce the government. They played a key role in forcing the government to accept reforms.

Opposition officials admit privately they are concerned about the university students and other radical groups who played also a key role in the anti-government movement.

"We have little control over the students," one official said. Many students detest the two Kims and say the opposition leaders are opportunists who won't tackle problems such as poverty, slums and sex discrimination.

Student violence has long been part of Korean politics, and many observers doubt the students will be silent when schools reopen after the summer vacation.

The Korea Herald appealed in an editorial for students and others not to wreck the hopes for democracy.

## Fear of Syrian nationalism

Syria and the French Mandate: The politics of Arab nationalism, 1920-1945

By Philip S. Khoury  
I.B. Tauris, London

AS Albert Hourani points out in a foreword, the presence of which is a guarantee of this book, Professor Khoury has filled a gap in the previous literature on modern Syria which has been predominantly concerned either with the closing period of Ottoman rule or with the birth and development of the independent state. He examines the period of the French mandate in great and often illuminating detail, passing somewhat hurriedly, however, over its last phase from 1939 to 1945.

He shows how French administrators were influenced by their experience in North Africa, and also by the fear of permitting Syrian nationalism to set an example which could have dangerous repercussions in North African territories. This fear contributed to their consistent effort to diminish the influence of Damascus.

They began by creating a Greater Lebanon through the incorporation of local Muslim minorities in what had previously been regarded as a substantially Christian enclave. Later, under the pressures of a deteriorating international situation in which it was important to secure the goodwill of Turkey, and in disregard of mandatory obligations, they negotiated the transfer of Alexandretta and its hinterland to Turkish sovereignty. Nor were the remaining areas of Syria encouraged to develop as a unitary state. The ascendancy of the Alawite minority in Syria today is a consequence of its distinctive treatment by the mandatory authorities.

Nevertheless the urban elites of Damascus and Aleppo largely retained the political leadership they had established in Ottoman times, and they dominated the National Bloc which assumed control of the state when the French withdrew in 1945. Their dominance was short-lived. As independent Syria took its place in the Arab World, their position was undermined by new forces, represented on the one hand by the Ba'ath party with its pan-Arabism and its progressive social doctrine and on the other by Muslim fundamentalism. Professor Khoury does not advance into this turbulent scene. But he has built a durable monument to the traditional leaders who led the way to independence.

Harold Beeky

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# How does the human computer work? — Part 2

By Dr. Kevan Martin

The writer is a researcher at the U.K. Medical Research Council Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit, Department of Pharmacology, Oxford University. The first part of this essay appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

PART 1 of this article outlined the role that the cerebral cortex plays in the remarkable process of visual perception, and the problems researchers face in seeking to explain the process. The first task is to discover the structure of the 'cortical microchip' and how it works. This involves a combination of techniques that press against the limits of present expertise. Part 2 now looks at work being done, using techniques already described, and progress in understanding the brain's highly ordered parallel processing mechanism.

The first point in the circuit that we have examined is the input to the cortex from the thalamus. Each nerve cell in the thalamus sends a single fibre to the cortex, and the fibres travel to the cortex in tracts known as the white matter. We have recorded from these fibres as they enter the cortex and have filled them with injecting them with horseradish peroxidase. As the fibre from a thalamic nerve cell enters the cortex, it breaks up into a great many branches, which are beaded. The beads, called boutons, are the points of connection between the nerve fibres and the cells in the cortex. The connection is made by a structure called a synapse, a specialisation of the membrane of the bouton that can only be seen using the very high magnifications of an electron microscope. The bouton itself contains many small packets of chemicals known as neurotransmitters, which are the means of communication between cells, as opposed to the electrical impulse that is the signal sent out from the nerve cell body down the nerve fibre. When this electrical signal arrives in a bouton, the neurotransmitter is released and crosses the synapse.

The nature of the neurotrans-

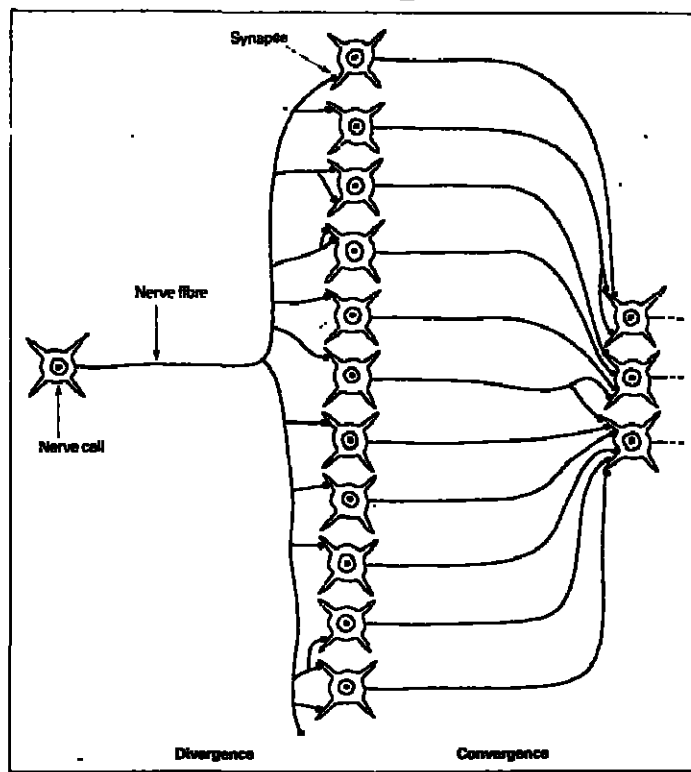
mitter is critical in determining what happens next, because some neurotransmitters activate, or "excite" their target cells to produce an electrical impulse, while other neurotransmitters act to prevent impulses being produced and so "inhibit" their targets. So we have not only to discover what connections are made between the different nerve cell types, but we have to find out which neurotransmitters they contain. This is done by using the powerful techniques of immunology. Antibodies can be made that recognise particular neurochemicals, and different specific antibodies can be used to test which neurotransmitter is used by a particular nerve cell.

## Extensive branches

The nerve fibres from the thalamus excite their target cells. Previously it was thought that only a few nerve cells were contacted by each thalamic fibre. Our research has shown that the branches of these fibres is far more extensive than was supposed, and that as many as 5000 cells can be contacted by the branches of a single fibre from a thalamic cell. However, each fibre contributes not more than a few synapses to any single cell, whereas we know that each nerve cell in the cortex receives at least 3000 synapses.

Not only is the contribution anatomically small but, we believe, it is also functionally small. The activity of each synapse produces only a small potential change in the cell to which it connects, and because each cell has a threshold to be reached before it produces an electrical impulse, the activity of hundreds of excitatory synapses has to be added together before the cell sends the electrical signal down its nerve fibre. This is a critical observation, for it gives us the first hint of how the cortex might be working.

The high degree of convergent excitation that is required to activate a single cell makes it very different from the computers with which we have been comparing it. Unlike the computer, which is



The cortex is built on the principles of divergence and convergence. One nerve cell diverges to contact many other cells, and each cell in turn receives a convergent input from many other nerve cells.

organised in a very hierarchical way, the cortex seems to be operating here as a democratic society. Only when enough cells agree that an event has taken place do they act together to produce an electrical impulse in the cells on which they converge. This circuitry is in sharp contrast to that found at earlier stages in the visual pathways, where the linkage between one nerve cell and the next is very much more secure because there is much less convergence and divergence.

These experiments indicate that the principle on which the cortex is designed is one where each nerve cell talks to many other nerve cells and, in turn, receives communication from a great many nerve cells. There are a number of good reasons why this should be so. One big problem that needs to be dealt with by the brain is that the transmission time along the nerve fibres and across the synaptic junctions is very slow. If these conduction

times were transposed to a computer, the processing time just to read a single line of text would be intolerably long. The situation is made worse by the fact that most of the problems the cortex has to deal with are complex and, naturally, the time taken to arrive at a solution increases with the complexity of the problem. Yet we can arrive at solutions to complex tasks with remarkable speed.

## Parallel processing

The paradox of how rapid solutions are achieved using circuitry that operates slowly is explained by a technique known as parallel processing. This is a means of breaking up a single complex task into a number of sub-tasks that can then be solved simultaneously instead of sequentially. The result is that the overall processing time is reduced. It is the high degree of divergence in the input of single nerve cells to the cortex, and of nerve cells within the cortex itself, that provides the

structural basis to make this parallel processing possible. In this way, the severe physiological limitations of the speed at which individual nerve cells can operate are offset by having a great many working at the same time on the same problem.

The converse aspect of the circuitry, a single nerve cell receiving a convergence input from many other nerve cells, also has important functional implications. Many nerve cells, particularly at the sensory surfaces such as the skin or retina, are spontaneously active. This could be a source of confusion if every nerve impulse arriving at the cortex was interpreted as an indication that something had been seen or felt. We would be living much of the time in a land of illusions. The design of the cortex ensures that this random activity is filtered out, because only the simultaneous action of hundreds of cells produces an electrical impulse in the cell or cells on which they all converge. Simultaneous activity in all these cells is most unlikely to occur through random spontaneous activity, so only real events produce the required simultaneous activation of large numbers of nerve cells.

However, even in normal vision the cortex has to create illusions in order to sidestep some of the inherent limitations of the system. For example, the visual field of each eye contains a blind spot that corresponds to the region of the retina where the optic nerve leaves the eye. We have no conscious awareness that there is any gap in our field of view, because the brain is able to fill gaps in our visual space. Similar filling-in can occur in time, too. This is well demonstrated by our experience of cinema films, where 24 'stills' are presented successively every second, yet our experience is of continuous, smooth motion. These illusions of continuity in our visual experience are clearly preferable to a disjointed and incomplete view of the world. A great deal of what the cortex as a whole does may be to provide the most complete view it can of the world around us. When not enough information

is present, we make the best guess, which unfortunately (and sometimes embarrassingly) is not always the correct one, as when we greet the long lost friend who turns out to be a complete stranger.

## Highly ordered

A crucial factor in our interpretation of a visual scene is that the stimulation must be such that the cortical circuits are activated in a highly ordered way in space and time. When this essential requirement is not met, the brain cannot usefully interpret the input. A simple illustration of this is the common experience of 'seeing stars' after receiving a knock on the back of the head. The mechanical stimulation activates large numbers of cortical neurones directly and we have the experience of moving points of lights, called phosphenes. This experience does not correspond to any normal visual perception because the knock on the head does not activate the cortical circuit in the appropriate pattern.

It is only through a knowledge of the circuitry and function of the cortical modules that we will be able to understand the nature of the processing that the cortex is doing. At present we are still grappling with very basic aspects of this problem. Even when these are solved many big issues will remain, such as how our memories are used in cortical processing to solve problems of recognition, and how we are able to direct our attention to particular tasks and ignore extraneous distracting stimuli, and understanding why we are 'conscious'. Solving these problems is still one of the most formidable tasks in biological research, but the rate of progress, and the development of new ways of unlocking the secrets of the cortical microchip, make this one of the most exciting and promising areas of new research.

A great deal of the work described here was done in collaboration with members and associates of the U.K. Medical Research Council's Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit, whose contribution I gratefully acknowledge.

# Cicada admirers give new meaning to bug bites

By Nelson Graves  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Gaye Williams likes them deep-fried in a cayenne pepper sauce.

Don Sudbrink serves them in teriyaki and tacos.

Peter Kranz, after removing their heads, eats them raw.

The object of their gastronomic affection is a species of locust, or cicada, now moulting, mating, blanketing trees and shrubs, and stirring revulsion among most humans in the eastern United States after a 17-year underground slumber.

The world's loudest bug, whose appearance and singsong din repulse many, is for some an epicurean delight.

"These are clean-living animals," said Williams, an entomologist with the state of Maryland's agriculture department. "They are a good source of energy and protein, and reasonably easy to digest."

"Except for the skins," Williams and other cicada connoisseurs are taking advantage of the brief — and rare — appearance of the billions of cicadas to extend their taste horizons.

The one-and-a-half-inch (3.7 cm) long insects known as *magicicada septendecim* to entomologists began emerging from subterranean refuges in late May and now can be seen and heard throughout a vast triangular area between New York, Georgia and Illinois.

Scientists estimate that several million cicadas can cluster in a single acre.

The insects seen swirling through treetops today were conceived in 1970. They lay underground as nymphs for almost 17 years, sucking sap from tree roots. Then this year they dug out, shed their outer skin and emerged with bulging red eyes, six legs, red-trimmed wings and protruding abdomens.

This species of cicada is distinguished by its incubation period, the longest known to science, and the humming noise it makes by means of a vibrating abdominal membrane.

The mass cicada cacaphony, which can drown out conversation, will soon be gone.

Once the males, whose clamour is presumed to be a mating plea, join with their silent female partners, they die.

The females lay as many as 600 eggs in small slits they cut in tree twigs, then die themselves.

The cicadas' lives above ground, last barely four weeks and will end — to the great relief of most who have been deafened and drive-bombed by the bugs — by early July.

But those with cicada sweet-tooths are busy conducting culinary experiments while they may.

Peter Kranz, a paleontologist and part-time science teacher in Washington schools, said he has served cicadas to hundreds of students.

"Most kids say they taste like French fries, popcorn and chicken," said Kranz, who covers sauteed cicadas with cinnamon butter later in the day. Others say they taste like shrimp or soft-shell crabs.

"I've never had anybody get sick, feel badly or have difficulty with them once they get them in their mouths," said Douglas Miller, with the U.S. agriculture department's systematic entomology laboratory.

Although there is disagreement among scientists on the point, some claim cicadas are low in cholesterol.

Gaye Williams says newly hatched cicadas make the best eating. She uses a flashlight to find tender morsels on trees at night. "They are not crunchy yet," she said.

Dead cicadas now accumulating on suburban lawns should be avoided because, Williams says, they cause "bacteriological problems."

Kranz said people never reject cicada dishes on taste grounds, only one the "notion" they have of the insects.

Ingenuity may yet find a way to prolong the taste-testing spree of cicada devotees after this infestation ends.

# Suit is slice of recent Central American history

By Bob Egglek  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The subject was bananas, but the setting was ironic as the Sandinista government of Nicaragua used a U.S. conglomerate before a conservative U.S. judge for alleged breach of contract.

On one side in the pretrial hearings last week in federal court were executives of Castle and Cooke, founded by missionaries in Hawaii, and its subsidiary, Standard Fruit Co.

On the other side was Nicaragua, whose witnesses included Arturo Cruz, a former member of the Central American nation's governing junta who became a leader of the contra rebels, then a contra dropout.

Nicaragua says it lost \$35.5 million when Standard Fruit stopped buying bananas from 17,000 acres of plantations in October 1982, 21 months after the two sides signed a five-year "memorandum of intent."

U.S. district judge John Vukas said he would decide whether the agreement was a contract or, as the company contends, a non-binding framework for later negotiations that proved unsuccessful. He will rule after both

sides submit final written arguments July 28.

The Nicaraguan government, a target of the Reagan administration, appeared before Vukas, a conservative Reagan appointee, for 2½ days of hearings.

Standard Fruit had enjoyed a monopoly under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979. The company pulled out of Nicaragua in December 1980, citing labour problems.

Nicaraguan witnesses testified how, a few days after Reagan's 1981 inauguration, the revolutionary Sandinista government bent over backward to gain the return of the company.

They said Nicaragua offered the same exclusive purchase rights, a curb on labour unrest, a promise of no criticism in the press, suspension of a government nationalisation decree and assumption of the company's \$10-million debt at a time that the government had only \$3 million in its treasury.

Nicaragua had paid more than \$3.5 million of that debt, through an offset of 50 cents in the price of each box of bananas, when Standard Fruit cut off purchases in October 1982 as international banana prices declined. Company

witnesses cited economic reasons and labour problems, and said they also feared a nationalisation decree.

The overriding reason for Nicaragua's concessions was economic, said Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez. He said 3,000 jobs were affected when Standard Fruit first pulled out of Nicaragua and "we couldn't eat all those bananas."

Cruz, who in 1981 was a non-Sandinista member of the five-man governing council, was the senior member of the three-man Nicaraguan delegation in the San Francisco negotiations with Castle and Cooke and testified under subpoena.

He later became Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States but broke with the government in 1982. He was briefly an opposition candidate for president, but pulled out of the race. Then he became one of three leaders of the contra umbrella group, the United Nicaraguan Opposition, but withdrew last March, saying its leadership had become too authoritarian.

The U.S. government supports the contra rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinistas.

The other two Nicaraguan witnesses were the remaining mem-

bers of the 1981 delegation, Martinez and Jaime Wheelock, minister of agriculture development. All three said they had considered the January 1981 agreement a binding contract.

Three Castle and Cooke executives testified on behalf of the company, explaining why it returned to Nicaragua after the agreement.

Leonard Marks, its former executive vice president, said company officials knew the agreement was not binding but "agreed that we would in good faith go back and at the same time negotiate."

Marks was asked about a line in Castle and Cooke's annual report for 1981, which said the company had "reached agreement on a five-year contract."

"It didn't say we signed a five-year contract," Marks pointed out. The judge may agree with the company that no contract existed and dismiss the suit; he may decide that a contract existed, and then rule on Nicaragua's request to send the dispute to arbitration; or he may conclude that the contract was improper and leave the question for a jury trial next May.

# Last word for a gentleman — being measured for a shot gun

By Brian Mooney  
Reuters

LONDON — After tailored suits and crafted shoes, a yacht and a luxury car to get to the country estate, there's one more piece of kit needed to become the complete English gentleman or woman — a hand-built shotgun.

Starting price for a Purdey, considered by many to be the ultimate in sporting guns, is currently £18,500 (\$30,000). Delivery time — between two and two-and-a-half years.

"Some of our customers," said Richard Beaumont, head of James Purdey and Sons, who have been supplying guns for royalty, aristocrats and the rich since 1814.

Purdeys — perfectly balanced, with finger-light touch and exquisite finish — are lovingly built — not just made. "We still build our guns much the same as we did in 1814 — by hand. There are no machine parts," Beaumont said.

He was talking in the wood panelled long room at Purdey's London Mayfair headquarters where customers are sized up for their guns which are quite as individual as a bespoke suit.

Their arm and neck measurements are taken and eye sight

tested for alignment of stock and barrel so that the finished gun fits and fires perfectly when it is brought to the shoulder.

"The customer's aim is checked with a weapon of the type first developed for Britain's King George V for use indoors to help him keep up his swing after a serious illness in 1928-9."

"It's an electric gun which when fired projects a torch beam at its target."

"This is particularly helpful with our older customers," Beaumont said.

"As people get older, their left eye gets much stronger than their right eye. They tend not to believe this, but with the electric gun they see exactly what's happening to their aim."

Purdey is steeped in tradition. Beaumont sees it as one of those institutions that make Britain still distinctive in an age of mass production.

Portraits of the Purdey family whose members maintained an unbroken link with the business until 1957 hang in the long room alongside pictures of customers — royal and common, past and present.

One photograph groups nine European kings who attended the funeral of Britain's King Edward VII in 1910. All owned Purdeys.

A picture of Prince Charles, said to have been sent off hunting by his wife Princess Diana, stands on a desk at the end of the long room.

"I can't talk about our royal customers, you know," Beaumont said.

Many of Purdey's customers today are Americans.

"North Americans generally prefer the over and under gun which places the twin barrels on top of each other rather than side by side. Starting price for this variation — £23,500 (\$38,000)."

Beaumont reckoned that 65 per cent of those taking delivery of their precious guns this year were from the United States.

He is modest about his firm and refuses to knock its main British rivals — Boss and Holland and Holland, two other old established gunmakers.

But the name Purdey, like Rolls Royce in the motor trade, has a magic of its own.

"Anybody who knows anything about guns will have heard the name Purdey," Christie's sporting gun expert Christopher Bruncker told Reuters. He said Boss has a very much smaller production, and Holland and Holland make a much wider range.

"But as soon as somebody says

"I've got a Purdey" you know what he's got. In marketing terms, we're talking about the very best grade," he said.

Bruncker said even at their high prices Purdeys had proved to be good investments.

A gold-inlaid Purdey bought in 1971 for around £2,000 (then \$2,400) fetched £22,000 (\$35,000) this year, an auction record for a second-hand sporting gun.

What makes a Purdey so special?

"Craftsmanship. Just the man who makes the thing — so much better than the machine," Beaumont said.

Purdey's craftsmen build their guns in different sections — barrel-making, actioning, stocking, and finishing — at a London factory employing 50 people.

Annual production is currently around 70 guns, a far cry from the record 301 built in 1901 but well up on the years after both world wars when it seemed that with the break-up of estates and higher taxes demand for luxury guns would eventually vanish.

Was it profitable to build such an exclusive product in such small numbers?

"If it weren't we would not be here," Beaumont said. But he refused to talk of the firm in conventional business terms.

# Problems of the greying Netherlands

The rapidly growing number of aging people is something the developed world is having to face. Laura Rama reports on how the Dutch welfare system is trying to cope.

AMSTERDAM — When about 100 angry old people blocked trams in Amsterdam recently in protest against planned nursing home closures, it was a sign that the greying of The Netherlands population could no longer be ignored. The rapidly growing numbers of old people are compelling that country — and most others in the developed world — to make hard choices about how to care for the aged.

For the Dutch, the threat is that the country's lavish welfare system will be stretched beyond its limits and an already sluggish economy will be dragged down further by a population of more retirees and fewer workers. About one in five people is aged 55 or more and that figure will jump to one in three by the year 2035.

This "greying" trend is expected to cost the government around F12 billion (\$6 billion) in extra social security payments — particularly pensions, housing and health care — by the end of the century, according to a civil service report. That amounts to about 3 per cent of today's gross domestic product. The complexity of the problem, its political sensitivity and emotional dimension, however, has stymied the centre-right government of Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the Prime Minis-

ter, and left it struggling for solutions.

Other European countries, as well as Japan and the U.S., face similar threats to a greater or lesser extent. In West Germany the population is "greying" even faster than in The Netherlands.

The question of finances is paramount. In The Netherlands, government old-age pensions account for nearly one-third of all social welfare benefits and that will climb to half by the year 2030. Medical and housing costs will also rise considerably.

Two demographic trends are fuelling the problem. One is the sharply falling birth rate, which means fewer working people to support the aged. The other is the fact that the elderly are living longer because of better health care.

For women, the problem is even more acute. By the turn of the century, women will represent 60 per cent of those 65 years and above, and 70 per cent of those over 80. About two-thirds will live alone.

Views on housing the elderly in The Netherlands have changed much over the years. In the 1960s the custom was to herd the aged into institutional homes located in quiet areas, often in the south-

cent of senior citizens lived in these heavily subsidised retirement homes in the 1960s.

But over the years it became evident that old people disliked being uprooted. Moreover, the cost of institutional housing climbed faster than expected.

Now housing policy has shifted direction. Mr. Lubbers' Christian Democrat-Liberal coalition government has turned away from institutional care and moved towards individual care so that pensioners can continue to live at home as long as possible. In future this will mean relatively fewer retirement and nursing homes and more at-home services. But as the militant old folk in Amsterdam made clear not everyone is happy with the new policy.

At the moment about 90 per cent of senior citizens live at home and only 8½ per cent in communal retirement homes, a figure which the government hopes to bring down to 7 per cent in coming years.

Mr. Lubbers sees this substitution of informal care for professional services as part of a much broader shift to a "caring society" and away from the "caretaker state." The aim is two-fold: to cut costs and to foster the independence of the aged, in that order. A greater reliance on cheaper, informal care and less on dearer, professional services should save the government about F1.4 bil-

lion by the year 2000.

Government old-age pensions, to which everyone reaching the age of 65 is entitled, now absorb more than 12 per cent of national income and will surge to nearly 20 per cent by the year 2020, according to projections by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). By comparison state pensions account for almost 14 per cent in national income in West Germany and will spurt to nearly 22 per cent by 2020, while in Japan the figure will triple to 20 per cent.

About 60 per cent of all retired Dutchmen live only on government pension benefits, which are a flat amount indexed to the legal minimum wage under a scheme established in 1957. Around 22 per cent of retirees also receive a private pension but that percentage is forecast to triple or quadruple in coming years along with the proliferation of corporate pension plans.

Senior citizens complain that their state pensions have fallen by 13 per cent over the past six years because the minimum wage has been frozen along with welfare benefits as part of austerity measures brought in under Mr. Lubbers. But the overall financial position of the elderly has generally improved because of the expansion in private pensions.

— Financial times feature.

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## Frenchman wins Tour de France 6th leg but Swiss remains leader

EPINAL, France (AP) — Frenchman Christophe Lavainne won the sixth leg Monday of the Tour de France cycling race, crossing the finish line alone, while Switzerland's Erich Maechler retained the leader's yellow jersey.

Mexico's Raul Alcalá, considered an outsider, finished second, 1:34 seconds behind Lavainne, who completed the 169-kilometre leg in four hours 12 minutes and 57 seconds.

The leg between Strasbourg and Epinal, which took the competitors through the Vosges Mountain passes, was lively with a dozen riders who broke away from the pack jostling for position.

Ten riders, led by Frenchman Jean-Claude Bagot and including Lavainne and Alcalá, moved ahead at the approach to the Col du Champ du Feu. At the Col de la Chipotte, the final climb, they were joined by Colombian Gerar-

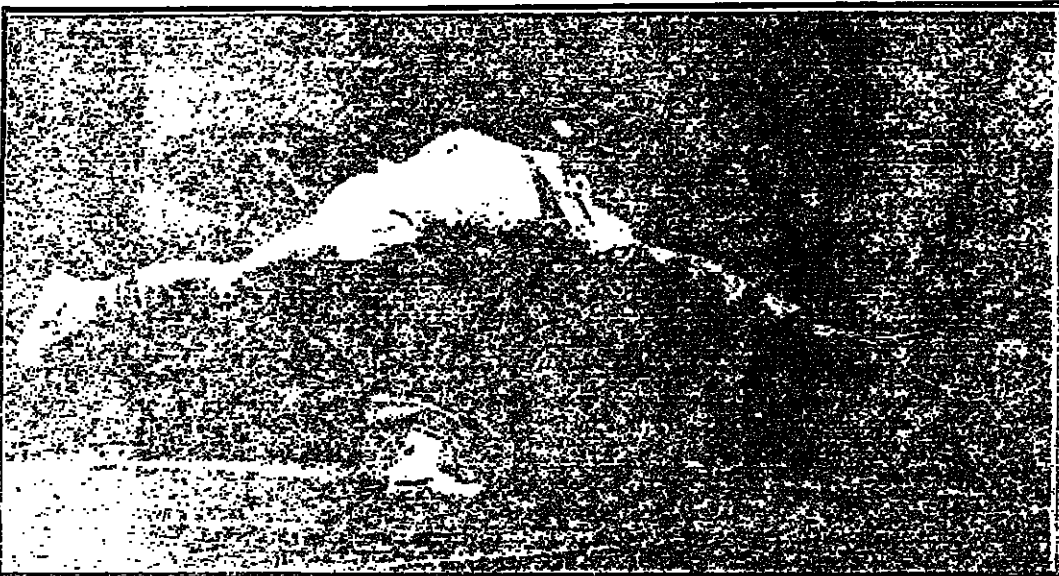
do Moncada. The pack at some points was eight minutes behind the leaders. "I saved my strength for the last 30 kilometres," Lavainne said.

Maechler, who finished in the pack, said it was thanks to his team that he retained the yellow jersey. "Without them, Christophe Lavainne would be wearing it tonight," he said.

He added that all riders, working in hot summer temperatures, were beginning to feel some fatigue.

### Tottenham signs Dutch midfielder

LONDON (AP) — Tottenham Hotspur signed Dutch midfielder Johnny Meigod for 250,000 pounds from Nottingham Forest Monday, completing its summer rebuilding programme after losing England ace Glenn Hoddle to Monaco last month. Meigod, who was formerly with Real Madrid and also operates as a sweeper, is the second Forest player to move to Tottenham during the off-season. Centreback Chris Fairclough, an England under-21 international, also joined the "Spurs" during the summer. Meigod is Tottenham's third overseas signing, joining Belgium's Nico Claesen and Argentinian veteran Osvaldo Ardiles.



Cash... the leopard who vanquished the heroes

## Cash takes the limelight at Wimbledon 9 is Navratilova's favourite number

LONDON (R) — Though Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker and Martina Navratilova all enlivened the proceedings at various times, the 101st Wimbledon Championships belonged to Pat Cash.

With John McEnroe considering retirement and Connors being dragged screaming towards sporting middle age, tennis has been in desperate need of a new people's champion.

Becker is just too physically intimidating to command great affection while Ivan Lendl, the black knight of the court, may well love children and animals but there is no evidence they feel the same way about him.

At which point Cash, who has obviously studied all the old Errol Flynn movies, won a million hearts by slaying Lendl before claiming a kiss from a lady as his prize.

Long after the swashbuckling hero's 7-6, 6-2, 7-5 triumph in Sunday's men's singles final is forgotten, the image of Cash — complete with black and white bandana — scrambling over the heads of the crowd to clamber into the VIP balcony will remain a moving memory.

"I just wanted to share my victory with the people who mattered most," explained Cash after embracing his Norwegian girlfriend Anne-Britt Kristensen, his father Patrick and coach Ian Barclay.

Such flamboyancy is forward upon in the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club members' enclosure where they rather liked young Becker's respectful air and where the mere mention of the 22-year-old Australian's name can cause drinks to be spilled.

Should McEnroe pick up his racket, readjust his pout and set out to challenge Cash on the centre court next year, it may well be the club's members who decide to take a sabbatical.



Navratilova... the reigning queen

But how Wimbledon's 375 privileged members regard him will be of little interest to the new title holder. "I just bloody love the yobboes were watching back home in the pubs," said the 54th men's singles champion, referring to the beer-drinking friends he left behind in Australia when he made his home in London.

Cash, the latest Australian name on a Wimbledon roll of honour which includes such names as Rod Laver, John Newcombe and Lew Hoad, was ranked 413th in the world 12 months ago after plunging from seventh because of injury.

But 1987 has been rich reward for the pain and hard work he had to endure to overcome a back problem which could have ended his career at the age of 21.

He won the Davis Cup virtually single-handedly against Sweden in December and reached the final of the Australian Open in January before losing to Sweden's Stefan Edberg.

"I don't know how Wimbledon compares to winning the Davis Cup. That was for Australia and this is for me and my mates, so I think this must be number one," continued Cash.

"But it wasn't the greatest mo-

ment of my life, that was when my son Daniel was born. Nor was it the best match I've ever played, that was against Mats Wilander in the quarters."

Another Australian, Peter Doohan, became an instant celebrity when he beat Becker in the second round on the first Friday of the championship.

Though he eventually lost to Yugoslav Musclem Slobodan Zivojinovic, Doohan luxuriated in his sudden fame. "Neale Fraser (the Australian Davis Cup captain) has been so excited he's been all over me like a rash," said Doohan, adding with engaging objectivity: "I think I played within myself so I'm surprised at the reaction."

Those who imagined Connors, two months short of his 35th birthday, was way beyond the age of dissent were proved wrong when the twice former champion argued it out with 23-year-old Nikael Pernfors of Sweden in a match which is already part of Wimbledon folklore.

Connors came back to win in five sets after losing 16 of the first 19 games before yielding to Cash in the semifinals.

"That was a war out there, and it was me who was killed," said Connors, in a playful jibe at Becker who had accepted the end of his two-year dominance with the words: "I lost a tennis match, it wasn't a war, no-one was killed."

Navratilova also defied the passage of time, winning a record sixth successive title and eighth in all at the age of 30 against 18-year-old West German Steffi Graf.

While awaiting the presentation ceremony, Graf, impatient to assume her predestined role as world number one, asked Navratilova: "How many of these do you want?"

To which the champion replied: "Nine's my lucky number."



Nigel Mansell

### Mansell breaks out of slump

LE CASTELLET, France (AP) — Britain's Nigel Mansell broke out of his slump, winning the French Grand Prix after making a daring move on a curve.

Prior to the race on Sunday, the Briton had the pole position for three straight Grand Prix races — Belgium, Monaco and Detroit. But he failed to win any of those contests.

He dropped out of the first two and faded to fifth in Detroit. He also finished sixth in the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix after starting on the inside.

So, after setting a lap record in Friday's qualifying session in the French Grand Prix to gain another pole position, the question came up again whether Mansell's car would hold up.

Concerned about being quick in practice and not quick when it counts most, Mansell's Williams-Honda crew simulated race conditions during practice sessions after setting the lap mark.

That extra bit of homework was enough for Mansell to gain his second Grand Prix victory of the season.

"We needed a win and everything went according to plan," Mansell said. "Everything went much better now and I'm looking forward to the British Grand Prix."

The British Grand Prix is Sunday in Silverstone, England. Mansell and teammate Brazilian

Nelson Piquet swapped the lead over the French race's 80 laps.

Mansell led for the first 35 laps before pitting for tires. Piquet then took the lead, but had just a four-second advantage over Mansell when the Briton came back on the track.

Mansell moved ahead on lap 46, making a daring move on the inside of a curve when Piquet drifted wide.

"When Nigel came by and I braked too late," Piquet said. "He had fresh tires then and there was nothing I could do as mine were getting worn."

"I think I surprised Nelson when I passed him on the inside," Mansell said. He passed Piquet on the entrance to the double beausset curve.

The two stayed about a second apart over the next 20 laps before Piquet pitted on the inside, for new tires again. He came out 25 seconds behind Mansell.

"I gulped when Nelson went into the pits," Mansell said.

The new tires helped Piquet do the fastest lap in the race in the 68th tour. He was steadily chipping away at the lead when time ran out after 80 laps.

Although Piquet narrowed the lead down to 7.711 seconds at the finish, Mansell won easily in 1 hour, 37 minutes, 3.89 seconds over the 305.04 kilometres on the Paul Ricard Circuit in southern France's wooded countryside.

### Morocco targets bountiful results in Algiers games

RABAT (R) — Morocco hopes to win at least half a dozen gold medals with their team of 32 competitors who arrived in Algiers only just in time for the fifth Arab Athletics Championships which began Monday, officials said.

The Moroccan squad of 19 men and 13 women missed the formal opening ceremony Sunday because of transportation problems which forced them to use a special air charter to get to Algiers. Nawal Al-Moutawakil, who won a gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics in the women's 400-metre intermediate hurdles, is considered a certainty in her field, the officials said.

She made her way to Algiers separately from the United States where she is studying physical education at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, they said.

Nawal won the event in Los Angeles in 54.61 seconds and last

April she timed 56.16 seconds to win at a U.S. university meet.

Said Aouita, the Moroccan world champion runner (two miles, 5,000 and 1,500 metres), will not be present because of other engagements on the European circuit.

But Moulay Ibrahim Boutaleb, an upcoming Moroccan youngster following in Aouita's footsteps, will run the 5,000 and 1,500 metres. He has already clocked about 13 minutes 20 seconds over five km as a junior.

Other gold medal challengers are Fawzi Lahbi, who has won the U.S. 800 metre indoor championship at Indianapolis, said Mohand who can cover 400 metres in 45 seconds, African women's discus champion Zoubaida Laayouni, and Squad Maloussi who won the women's shot put at the last Arab games in Casablanca.

### Menotti seeking European trophy

MADRID (R) — Cesar Menotti, who led Argentina to World Cup victory in 1978, wants to make Spanish First Division Atletico Madrid a side which can "fight on an equal footing with Real Madrid and Barcelona."

Menotti, who terminated his contract with Buenos Aires side Boca Juniors last week, was speaking to reporters before talks Monday afternoon with new Atletico president Jesus Gil.

Menotti was expected to join Atletico as coach for three seasons. "There hasn't been much time yet to firm up details," he

said.

Menotti, who coached Barcelona for a season in 1974, said he wanted a team at the top of the Spanish League which could "fight on an equal footing with Real Madrid and Barcelona."

"Although the side had problems last season I am not coming to a mediocre team."

Atletico finished seventh in the league and were beaten finalists in the cup.

Menotti said his "dream" was to win a league title and a European trophy.

### Egypt's discus champ in Arab games with eyes elsewhere

ALGIERS (R) — Egypt's Mohammed Naguib has come to the fifth Arab Athletics Championships in Algiers with heart and mind set elsewhere — as far away as Nairobi.

The 34-year-old police major desperately wants to avenge the loss of his African Discus title two years ago to Nigeria's Christian Okoye.

"For me these championships are just an opportunity to prove myself in the Arab arena. They must have heard so much about me and the time has come for them to see me in action," Naguib told Reuters.

Egypt are taking part in these championships, which get under way later on Monday, for the first time since the Nigerian beat Naguib in the African Athletics Championships in August 1985.

Naguib and Okoye are expected to meet in the African games next month in Nairobi for the first time since the Nigerian beat Naguib in the African Athletics Championships in August 1985.

### Boxer Fenech faces test of mental toughness

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Jeff Fenech of Australia will try to put personal problems behind him Friday night when he defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title against American Greg Richardson.

Fenech, 23, who has a 16-0 record as a professional, has been distracted while going through final preparations for his first defence of the crown. His father has been ill and his older brother was involved in a murder trial.

Last Friday, Fenech's brother, Paul, was sentenced to life in prison in connection with the death of a teen-age boy.

The boxer's father, also named Paul, was discharged from a hospital on Sunday after being treated for a heart problem.

Fenech has been training impressively for the fight at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, despite his personal worries.

"I just concentrate on my job and put everything else behind me," he said Sunday.

Fenech, the former International Boxing Federation (IBF) bantamweight champion, gave up that crown earlier this year to move up a division.

### Brazil's demise opens way for unseeded finalist

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Brazil's shock elimination from the South American Cup has opened the way for an unseeded team to reach the final.

Fast improving Chile, who routed the Brazilians 4-0, are preparing for a semifinal in Cordoba on Wednesday against Colombia whose exciting, attacking football has lit up the tournament.

Argentina, who began to show their World Cup-winning form only in the second half against Ecuador after struggling to a draw with Peru in Group A, must beat a new-look Uruguay in the semifinal in Buenos Aires on Thursday to reach Sunday's final.

Uruguay, with just three World Cup veterans including playmaker Enzo Francescoli, need to win only two matches to retain the Copa America.

But their late entry into the semifinals with a bye as title holders could be their undoing as Argentina have had two matches to blood newcomers following the loss of several World Cup players through injury or illness.

Colombia sent the seeded Pa-

### Air federation to decide soon whether balloon set record

PARIS (R) — The International Aeronautics Federation (FAI) said Monday it would know by the end of the week whether it will recognise a transatlantic, hot-air balloon flight by a British millionaire and a Swede as the world's first.

Yann Whytlaw, technical adviser at the Paris-based FAI, said the federation expected to receive a report from the balloon team soon which would allow it to reach a decision.

"We do not yet have the details to know whether they succeeded," he told Reuters.

FAI approval is required for establishing aviation records. British pop record and aviation tycoon Richard Branson, 36, and Swedish-born Per Lindstrand, 38, were within sight of the Scottish coast last Friday when they jumped without parachutes into

the Irish sea from their crippled balloon Virgin Atlantic Flyer.

Spokesmen for Branson's balloon team claimed a record had been set as the balloon touched down briefly in northern Ireland.

Residents of the northern Ireland town of Limavady reported seeing the capsule under the craft brushing the ground for 150 yards.

Whytlaw said that for a record to count, the balloonists had to land with their craft.

"As they left the capsule, I am afraid it might not count," he said.

Branson and Lindstrand jumped into the sea as the floundering flyer, which left Maine in the United States on Thursday for a planned landing in Scotland, raced through Irish sea waves at 160 kilometres an hour and took on water.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Soccer kicks off university games

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — The United States and North Korea played to a 1-1 draw as soccer competition kicked off the 14th World Summer University Games on Sunday, three days before the formal opening of the event. In other soccer matches on Sunday, Yugoslavia beat Brazil 5-0, Algeria defeated Britain 2-1, Holland defeated Nigeria 2-0 and Japan beat West Germany 2-1. The games run through July 20.

#### Soviet athlete breaks 2 world records

MOSCOW (R) — Leonid Taranenko has broken two world records in the super-heavyweight (over 110 kg) division at the Soviet Weightlifting Championships in Archangelsk. Taranenko jerked 265.5 kg, a half kilo improvement on the 1984 best set by compatriot Anatoly Pisarenko. He also increased his own world record total lift to 472.5 kg — a mark he had shared with Antonio Krastev of Bulgaria.

#### Geboers takes lead in 250 cc race

IFFENDIC, France (R) — Honda's Belgian rider Erik Geboers took the lead in the world 250 cc motocross championship on Sunday after snatching overall victory in the French Grand Prix. He prevailed on a spectacular hillside track in this Breton town while his main rival, Pekka Vehkonen of Finland, was plagued by mechanical problems. Geboers now leads the championship series after eight of 12 events with 25 points compared with 237 for Vehkonen and 203 for Sweden's Jorgen Nilsson.

#### Henkel sets two more best times

SINDELFINGEN, West Germany (R) — Rainer Henkel set two more world best times for 1987 on the final day of the West German Swimming Championships on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Cologne took the 1,500 metres freestyle in 15:06.03 minutes to better the previous best of East Germany's Uwe Dassler. In the 800 metres he recorded a best time of 7:57.86 which was also a national record.

#### Soviets win women's heptathlon in Europe

ARLES, France (R) — The Soviet Union, powered by Svetlana Buraga, has won the women's heptathlon on the second day of European Athletics Cup combined events Grand A final. The Soviet squad topped the group standings with 19,289 points to France's 18,477 and Czechoslovakia's 17,879. Buraga finished first in the individual standings ahead of East Germany's Marion Reichelt and compatriot Marianna Maslennikova.

### Cash: Don't compare me with other tennis greats

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Pat Cash doesn't want to be compared with the other Australians who have won the men's singles at Wimbledon, tennis greats such as Rod Laver and John Newcombe.

"I'm in a different era than those guys," Cash said Monday, a day after his 7-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl. "The way I play and the way I live is different."

On Sunday, Cash became the first Australian man to win Wimbledon since Newcombe captured the title in 1971, one of the last in a long string of champions from down under.

At Monday's news conference, Cash refused to be compared with his illustrious elders, including the late Harry Hopman, the legendary Australian coach.

"I don't think Harry Hopman would wear a diamond in his ear," said Cash, who does. "Tennis has become a bit more profes-

sional now. It's a completely different lifestyle now. It's a full-time job."

While he said he had no heroes when he began playing tennis, the names of Newcombe, Laver, Roy Emerson, Neale Fraser, Lew Hoad, Norman Brooks and Ashley Cooper, among others, gave him a thrill at Sunday night's champions dinner.

"It really hasn't sunk in properly yet," Cash said when asked how he felt about winning the world's most prestigious grass-court tournament. "It started to sink in last night when I was sitting at the table with the trophy right in front of me."

"I was very proud of my name being on there with those great champions."

Cash said he had received hundreds of letters and telegrams from Australia, including one from Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

"He said, 'you did yourself and your country proud,'" Cash said.

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## S. Korea releases 177 detainees in reform move

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The government on Monday released 177 people it had arrested for anti-government activity during the nearly three weeks of huge protests that prompted it to agree to sweeping democratic reforms.

The freed prisoners were greeted at prison gates by crowds of cheering and weeping supporters. Relatives hugged and kissed them as they stepped out of the gates of prisons in Seoul and eight other cities across the country.

Supporters lifted the freed prisoners on their shoulders and carried them through the streets in triumph. "Long live democracy," hundreds of people shouted.

"We are fighting for democracy, for our people and the dignity of our nation," Rev. Park Hyong-Kyu said after he was released from Seoul Prison.

The 117 prisoners were the first large group of political detainees released since the government agreed to free all political detainees. A few dozen suspects were released last week.

President Chun Doo-Hwan last week accepted opposition demands for the release of political prisoners and sweeping reforms to end the massive protests that swept the country.

Released prisoners told cheering supporters that full democracy would soon be ushered in and that the people were no longer willing to accept authoritarian rule.

"People are no longer intimidated by the violence of the government," said Rev. Park, a 63-year-old Presbyterian minister who was being freed from prison for the sixth time since 1973.

Ministry of Justice officials said all those being released had been detained since the opposition launched a drive on June 10 to oust the government and force democratic elections.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said some 310 other prisoners would be released by the middle of the week as the government moved to meet its promise to free all political detainees.

Among those released Monday were Yan Soon-Jik, a vice president of the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), and 11 leaders of the National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution, the opposition alliance that started the protests.

Mr. Yan was greeted by top opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, who shook hands and congratulated their colleague.

"Democracy is a matter of time," Mr. Yan said. "I am very

optimistic about the future."

Officials said 14 women were among the prisoners released Monday, and that 97 of the freed prisoners were students. Many of the freed prisoners wore traditional white cotton jackets called Hanboks in a sign of nationalism.

Opposition leaders have charged that the government is moving too slowly in releasing political prisoners. There is also a dispute over the number of political prisoners, with the government putting the figure at around 1,100, while the opposition says there are some 3,000.

Justice Ministry officials said they were working to free the prisoners and restore full civil rights to people who had lost them for political reasons. A list of some 2,100 people eligible for amnesty and restored rights was being drawn up, they said.

However, there still was no firm indication that the government would change the official status of dissident leader Kim Dae-Jung, who is under a suspended 20-year prison sentence on a 1980 sedition conviction.

Mr. Kim was named specifically by Roh Tae-Woo, chairman of the ruling party, when Mr. Roh made his startling eight-point reform proposal on June 29. It was expected Mr. Kim would be granted amnesty soon with his civil rights restored, clearing the way for him to again legally take part in politics.

## 27 soldiers die in blast set off by Tamils near Jaffna

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 27 soldiers were killed and another 20 wounded early Monday when Tamil rebels blew up a school building used as an army camp on the northern Jaffna peninsula, a military official said.

The official, who cannot be identified under standing rules, said the army was searching for more bodies in the collapsed school at Neliaddy, 25 kilometres northeast of Jaffna, the main town in the peninsula.

Intelligence sources said intercepted rebel radio messages indicated 10 Tamil fighters were killed when surviving soldiers fought back against a rebel attack after the explosion.

The village of Neliaddy is in the Vadamarachchi region, seized from the rebels in a week-long army offensive that ended June 1. The offensive captured about one-quarter of the peninsula from the rebels and was the army's most successful action in the four-year Tamil civil war.

In statements from their exile headquarters in southern India, rebel groups have been vowing to recapture the region.

On Sunday, the largest Tamil militia issued a statement from Madras in southern India saying heavy fighting erupted the night before around Neliaddy when army troops tried to move out of their camp.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said several soldiers were killed or wounded in that action. It said two Tamil fighters also died as rebels held off army reinforcements at the nearby village of Udappiddy.

Tamil rebels are fighting for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east for their minority people. They maintain Tamils are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese Buddhists, who control the government.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population.

The rebels' statement also said more than 1,000 people staged a hunger strike Sunday in the Mullaitivu district just south of the peninsula to urge the Indian government to recognise the Tigers and the Tamil freedom struggle.

The Tigers in several statements recently have called on India to intervene in the Sri Lanka conflict.

## Pravda: West inflating chances of arms pact

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the West was inflating the chances of a superpower accord to remove medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe and warned against excessive optimism.

Pravda said U.S. insistence that West Germany be allowed to keep its 72 Pershing 1A shorter-range missiles armed with American warheads remained one of a number of serious obstacles to an agreement at the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva.

The commentary said the presence of U.S. warheads on West German soil amounted to a violation of the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

"Special gifts are not needed to notice a certain buoyancy in the evaluations and predictions of Western politicians about the Soviet-American talks in Geneva," Pravda said.

It accused Washington of deliberately leaking overly optimistic reports to the Western press while erecting artificial barriers to progress at the discussions.

At Geneva, the superpowers are negotiating the elimination

from Europe of U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles, which can travel 1,000-5,000 kilometres, and shorter-range arms capable of hitting targets 500-1,000 kilometres away.

Pravda said Washington was justifying its demand that the West German Pershing 1As remain in place under the pretext that weapons belonging to countries other than the superpowers were not included in the Geneva talks.

"But if the warheads do not belong to West Germany and are the property of the United States, as Bonn and Washington officially maintain, then what third country can they be talking about?" it said. "There is no logic."

Washington was also using the exclusion from the Geneva talks of "the existing system of cooperation with allies," it tried to keep the Pershing 1As out of an accord.

"However, if such cooperation includes the use by the Bundeswehr of American nuclear warheads, then it is a violation (by both the West German and the American sides) of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," it said.

## Conservative support at record level in Britain

LONDON (AP) — Support for the ruling Conservative Party is at its highest level since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won power in 1979, a national public opinion survey said Monday.

The poll by Market Opinion and Research International (MORI) was the first substantial one since Mrs. Thatcher gained a third term in the June 11 general election.

The MORI poll published in

the Times of London said a survey of 1,775 adults indicated support for her party at 49 per cent of the electorate, six points up on its ballot box vote.

The main opposition Labour Party was one point down at 31 per cent and the Social Democratic-Liberal Party Alliance six points down at 17 per cent, the poll said.

No margin of error was given.

## Rights group to fight against U.S. Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON (R) — The leader of the biggest U.S. civil rights organisation Monday vowed to fight against President Reagan's nomination of conservative jurist Robert Bork to a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), said Mr. Bork's appointment would threaten hard-won civil rights victories.

"We will ask the Senate to reject Judge Bork's nomination," Mr. Hooks told thousands of delegates at the NAACP's annual

convention here.

A hard fight over the Bork nomination is expected in the U.S. Senate.

While noting the advances made by the civil rights movement since the last NAACP convention in New York City in 1959, Mr. Hooks said: "There is a dark side of hatred and bitterness, racism and intolerance which is alive and well in the Big Apple tonight."

Presidential candidate Richard Gephardt, a Democratic Congressman from Missouri, is to address the convention Tuesday.

## Panama leader calls for corruption probe

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — President Eric Delvalle has said he had ordered an investigation of allegations of corruption, election fraud and conspiracy to murder against Panama's top military officer.

In a nationally broadcast speech aimed at defusing a month-old political crisis, Mr. Delvalle said the accusations against Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the defence force, "demand a prompt and effective investigation."

He said he had asked Attorney General Carlos Villalaz to undertake the inquiry. The attorney general is appointed by the president, a civilian, in Panama's military-controlled government.

Opposition groups and U.S. officials have called for an investigation of the charges against Gen. Noriega. Washington escalated its criticism of the Panama-

nian government when it declared a state of emergency after a series of anti-government protests.

The Washington Post reported Monday that Panama has sent former Foreign Minister Aquilino Boyd to Washington to try and ease the tensions between Panama and the U.S. government.

State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarthy said she could confirm the report.

The president also called for a formal dialogue with opposition leaders "to reach a solemn commitment for a national reconciliation, based on the justice, democracy and liberty that we all anxiously desire."

Mr. Delvalle's eight-minute speech came a day after a massive, peaceful demonstration in the capital by protesters demanding an end to nearly two decades of military domination of the

government.

But it seemed unlikely to satisfy the opposition, which has called for nothing less than the removal of Gen. Noriega, head of the defence forces and the country's de facto leader.

Even before the president spoke, Ricardo Arias Calderon, head of the Christian Democratic Party and a prominent opposition leader, declared the protest movement would continue until Gen. Noriega agreed to step down.

"What the whole movement is aimed at is, first, the separation of Gen. Noriega, and, if he remains in Panama, his investigation and judgment. And, second, the establishment of a new government that will, very rapidly and very effectively, democratise our system of government," he said.

## Over 100 sign up to run for U.S. president

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Ronald Reagan drives away from the Capitol for the last time in 1989, Snow Lite, Chuck Ott and Punch B. Burger want to be there to take his place.

Federal Election Commission (FEC) records show that these individuals have joined the ranks of the more established types, like Vice President George Bush and Delaware Democratic Senator Joseph Biden, on the list of on-the-record presidential contenders for 1988.

More than 100 little-known Americans have submitted their names to the government as potential successors to President Reagan, most by filing out the statement of candidacy or campaign organisation.

Some — like Ray Rollison, who wants to run on a ticket with embattled Evangelist Tammy Faye Bakker, and Stewart David Nigdor, who wants to end home mortgages and "bring America to her greater joy" — just wrote in and told the FEC they are in the running.

"I guess they want to tell their grand kids or something that I was a candidate for president and here it is," speculated FEC spokesman Fred Eiland.

Because they filed a statement of candidacy, their names are put

on public record as part of public disclosure regulations. The FEC's list of more than 130 individuals includes the mainstream politicians in the race, as well as a handful who have disavowed candidacies but whose names were put up by draft committees, such as Lee Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Automobile Manufacturing Company.

Eiland said, "we don't do anything with it unless they show they have raised or spent \$5,000," which subjects a person to the reporting and fund-raising regulations.

Snow Lite is from North Carolina; Charles Ott represents the Chuck Ott's believe it or not serious presidential committee in New York; and Punch B. Burger is a dog from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Voters, also in North Carolina.

In addition, there's Gordon Adkins, a scripture-spouting Texan who is running as an ex-convict, jailed for debt-related offenses, and says God told him to run for president.

Another hopeful, Robert Gary Stout of Michigan, sent the FEC his community college transcript from last year, showing a 2.4 grade-point average, and also included copies of "we'll call you"

letters apparently rejecting his applications for employment with Playboy Enterprises and the National Security Agency.

Most of the contenders show zeros across the board in funds raised and spent. But one, Anthony Martin-Trigona, of Connecticut, says he has established a \$750,000 line of credit for his campaign.

The FEC is not quite sure what to do with some of the submissions it gets — the ones that don't include an official statement of organisation.

Such materials include a letter from Morton F. Meades, national chairman of the Christian-Justice Party of Manila, Philippines.

He wrote a "to whom it may concern" letter informing the American people "that their sacred honour will no longer be allowed to be dragged in the gutter by the Democrat and Republican politicians" because his party "has been formed to put an end to this wrongdoing."

Jessie A. Johnson of Arkansas apparently has a lot of faith in his ability to woo influential supporters. He listed his campaign treasurer as Ronnie Wilson, the White House.

## COLUMNS 768

### Angry housewives tie up drug pusher

MANILA (R) — Nine angry housewives caught a drug pusher selling marijuana to teenagers, tied him up and handed him over to police, the Philippines News Agency reported Monday. The agency, quoting police, said the housewives carried out the citizens' arrest after catching the man selling drugs in a small town in Quezon province east of Manila. Police said the man has been charged with drug offences and the housewives had been commended for their public-spiritedness.

### 23 Chinese cities have over 1m inhabitants

TOKYO (AP) — China has 23 cities with populations exceeding 1 million people, according to statistics released Sunday by the Ministry of Public Security. Shanghai, with 7.1 million people living in the city centre, is China's largest city. The nation's capital, Peking, is second with 5.9 million urban residents, said an official Xinhua News Service report monitored in Tokyo. China's third-largest city is Tianjin, with 5.5 million residents, followed by Shenyang (4.2 million), Wuhan (3.4 million) and Guangzhou (3.3 million), the report said. Other cities with populations over 1 million are Harbin, Chongqing, Nanjing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Changchun, Taiyuan, Dalian, Jinan, Qingdao, Fushun, Anshan, Kunming, Lanzhou, Hangzhou, and Changsha, the report said. China's population at the end of 1986 was 1.06 billion.

### China reintroduces tipping

PEKING (R) — China is to reintroduce tipping, long outlawed as unsocialist, as part of a drive to improve standards of service in the tourist trade, the People's Daily said. Drivers, translators, guides and other service staff will be allowed to receive bonuses and tips according to performance, the newspaper has said. Tourism workers will be expected to improve their political outlook at the same time, it added. Tipping had been banned since the early years of Communist China on the grounds that it was demeaning and that workers should not have to rely on it as a source of income.

### Soviet official sacked for bugging

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet Communist party official has been sacked for bugging a subordinate's telephone, the party newspaper Pravda said in a rare press reference to illegal wire-tapping. Pravda said A. Buvalin, party leader in Kursk, a major industrial city south of Moscow, had also been ousted from party membership for ordering the local telephone company to tape the telephone conversations of his female colleague. It said he justified the move by alleging there was a leak of party information from the office. His colleague, head of a department in the city party branch, accused him of hostility and prejudice towards her.

### Crows attack Dutch family

THE HAGUE (R) — Twenty crows twice attacked a Dutch family of four during the weekend, forcing them to flee the garden and seek cover in their house in the southern Dutch city of Eindhoven, police said. The man, woman and two children were not injured in the incidents on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, when the crows dove-bombed the family and even flew against a window and the back door of the house in an attempt to reach them. Ornithologists said they were baffled.

### Man held for trying to smuggle antiques

HONG KONG (R) — An 80-year-old man from Hong Kong was detained at a Chinese border town after valuable antiques, some of them 1,000 years old, were found in his luggage, an official Chinese news agency said. Customs officers found porcelain vases, bowls and wine vessels, all banned from export, the China News Service said in a report from Shenzhen, next to the British colony. The agency said the value of the haul was the highest at Shenzhen since the Communist takeover in 1949, but did not give the figure. A Hong Kong newspaper, Wen Wei Po, quoted the man as saying the antiques belonged to his family from the south China city Canton. He said the antiques were confiscated during the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s and had recently been returned to him by the Chinese government, the newspaper said. A Ming porcelain vase, owned by a Hong Kong private collector, was sold for 12 million dollars (\$1.5 million) at an auction here in May.

### Charles, Diana attend rock concert

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, wearing a skin-tight, purple satin suit, munched sugary popcorn, clicked her fingers and drummed on her knees Saturday night at a London concert by the rock group Genesis. Beside his wife in the royal box, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles nodded his head in time to the beat and tapped on his knees during the faster songs. The royal couple chatted to members of the band before the sell-out concert at Wembley Stadium, which was held to aid Charles' Charity that helps youngsters, the Prince's Trust.

### Bees bring Fleet Street to a halt

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-thousand honey bees buzzed into town and brought Fleet Street to a temporary halt while the police sent for a beekeeper to collect them. On a brilliant summer's day with flowers blooming in gardens, parks and windowboxes all over the capital, the queen bee and her procession flew down newspaper row and swarmed at a drugstore in the heart of the city financial district. City of London Police ordered the street closed for about half an hour until the insects settled down outside Underwood's chemist shop near Bouverie Street. It was not clear where they had come from or why they took a liking to Underwood's, although the store has an appealing green and yellow sign, or why they had chosen the business centre instead of one of London's flower-filled parks and squares. Police said the street was reopened once the swarm, estimated at 20,000, was settled and "apparently were no bother to anybody," a spokesman at police headquarters said. A policeman on the beat "just kept a casual eye on them," the spokesman said, until Pat Walsh of the Inner London Beekeepers' Association, arrived in protective clothing and lured them into a large cardboard box for the trip to his hives in Highgate, north London.

### Man missing from Queen Elizabeth 2

NEW YORK (R) — A man apparently fell or jumped from his private balcony on the Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship and remains missing, the Coast Guard has said. The man, who is from Chicago but was not otherwise identified, was last seen by a steward entering his private room at 9:30 p.m. Thursday (0130 GMT Friday) when the ship was about (507 kilometres) south of Bermuda, said Petty Officer Mike Milan. The steward said the man had been drinking, according to Milan. The crew realised he was missing late the next morning when a maid called his room to find out when he wanted his room cleaned and she received no answer. The ship, which was returning to New York after a Caribbean cruise, had travelled 724 kilometres between the time the passenger was last seen and when he was reported missing, Milan said. The Coast Guard was notified shortly after noon Friday when the ship was 547 kilometres west of Bermuda. "An urgent broadcast was issued to all ships transiting the area to keep an eye out. As of this time, we've had no sights," Milan said. When crew members entered the passenger's room they found that the bed had not been slept in. A damaged life jacket and two sets of keys to the room were in the cabin. A door to the man's private balcony on the side of ship was shut but unlocked, Milan said.

## Poll finds public disbelieves Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fifty-seven per cent of the public believes President Ronald Reagan was lying when he denied knowing about the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to the Nicaraguan rebels, according to a poll taken for U.S. News and World Report magazine.

The poll found that 41 per cent

of those responding recommended that Mr. Reagan be censured or reprimanded if it turns out he authorised diversion of the money to the Contras, while 26 per cent recommended impeachment. Another 7 per cent recommended that Mr. Reagan be congratulated, while 18 per cent had no feelings on the subject.

The results of the poll, which was conducted on June 29-30, were published in the July 13 edition of the magazine. The survey of 1,018 adults was done by the Roper Organisation and has a margin of error of plus or minus four points.

## Thai army chief warns Vietnamese intruders

BANGKOK, Thailand (R) — The commander of Thailand's army has threatened "drastic retaliatory actions" against Vietnamese positions in Kampuchea if the Vietnamese do not cease artillery attacks on Thai villages, local newspapers reported Monday.

The Bangkok Post and the Nation said Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth issued the threat Sunday as he led reporters on a tour of hills in the north eastern province of Ubon Ratchathani recently recaptured from the Vietnamese.

Army officers say scores of Thai and Vietnamese soldiers have been killed in months of fighting in Nam Yuen district along the Kampuchean border. They say it is one of the most

serious incursions by the Vietnamese, who have occupied Kampuchea since 1979 and frequently enter Thailand to fight Kampuchean resistance guerrillas.

The Bangkok Post quoted Gen. Chaovalit as saying that villages in the area have been besieged by Vietnamese artillery fire from June 27 to July 2. "In the past, the Thai side tried in every way not to take any action which might harm innocent villagers of the two countries who had no part in the fighting," Gen. Chaovalit said.

"Now the Vietnamese have resorted to shelling civilian targets. If the shelling continues, we will take drastic retaliatory actions with our firepower as well," he said.

## China tells Japan not to forget lessons of war

PEKING (R) — China told Japan Monday not to forget the lessons of the past and said some Japanese had never admitted their country's guilt for the bloody war between the two countries.

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the war's start, the People's Daily attacked a "small but influential" group of people in Japan, who denied the gravity of war crimes such as the Nanking massacre, advocated Japanese racial superiority and wanted closer ties with nationalist Taiwan.

"It is rash to forget the past," the newspaper said in a commentary to mark the clash between Japanese and Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge near Pek-

ing which marked the outbreak of the eight-year war.

"The invaders occupied half of China, killed 20 million Chinese soldiers and did incalculable damage... China has never taken any measures to exact revenge," the People's Daily said.

The paper did not identify those in Japan it accused of being hostile to China but said some of them feared that Japanese economic aid could help China overtake Japan's economic success one day.

The anniversary comes when relations between the two countries are at their worst since diplomatic ties were established 15 years ago, one Western diplomat said.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠A1073 ♣63 ♠AK102 ♠87 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass What do you bid now?	Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠A98 ♣J10643 ♠6 ♠Q984 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ? What action do you take?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠KJ6 ♠AJ987 ♠62 ♠852 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ 1 ♠ What do you bid now?	Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K63 ♣QJ872 ♠108852 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ? What action do you take?
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠10652 ♠AK9 ♠A75 ♠A8 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass What action do you take?	Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠7 ♠K852 ♠AJ853 ♠652 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ? What action do you take?

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